

Egyptian union wants ban on visits to Israel

CAIRO (AFP) — The president of the doctors' union called for a ban on Egyptians going to Israel for medical care, the weekly Rose Al Youssef reported on Sunday. Hamdi Al Sayed proposed "a law forbidding travel to Israel for treatment, declaring anyone who does so a traitor," in an interview with the magazine. The weekly said a number of Egyptian businessmen and politicians have gone to the Jewish state for care in its hospitals, including former Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil and Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Mohammad Bassiouni. The Israelis are "not more advanced than we are. It is shameful for an Egyptian to pay a cent into the treasury of a state which continues to buy arms to kill Arabs," Mr. Sayed said. The executive council of the doctors' union is dominated by the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, although Mr. Sayed himself is considered an independent.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الواسية

Volume 21 Number 6218

AMMAN MONDAY, MAY 13, 1996, DHUL-HIJJA 24, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Jordan, Egypt and PLO to coordinate efforts for peace and streamline ties

King Hussein, Mubarak and Arafat hold summit in Cairo, reaffirm that objective is just, comprehensive peace based on Palestinian, Arab and Muslim rights

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

CAIRO — His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, on Sunday concluded here a "very positive" tripartite summit expressing determination to advance their strategic relations. The three leaders also agreed to hold a follow-up meeting in Amman in the first week of June to resume talks on further discussions.

Tripartite meetings at ministerial level to draw up the proper mechanism for the implementation of the decisions taken by the heads of state will also be held. Jordan and Egypt affirmed commitment to extending support and backing to the Palestinians in their final status negotiations that started in Tabat this month and are expected to continue shortly after the Israeli elections on May 29. Officials here said the summit meant to succeed in preparing the ground for supporting the Palestinian cause. Jordan, whose relationship with the Palestinians could be described as more or less confrontational in the recent past, made its position very clear after Egypt "brought the two parties together," to the Cairo meeting, said an official.

The June follow-up meeting will therefore be neces-

sary to discuss the ways and means of coordinating stands, especially that the outcome of the Israeli elections will be known and how the Palestinians will deal with the new Israeli government will have to be studied.

At a joint press conference, the King voiced full backing to President Arafat and the Palestinian people and reaffirmed Jordan's keen interest in seeking harmonious relations, allaying fears or doubts that the Kingdom might seek a role in Jerusalem.

"Our hope and intention is to support our brethren in Palestine and its legitimate leadership represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to achieve their full rights on their national soil," the King said at the press conference that followed the one-hour summit. "This necessitates coordination in the final status negotiations."

The King reiterated that there was "no other alternative to the current Palestinian leadership" and that Jordan would "extend its blessings to President Arafat if the holy places are under his sovereignty."

"If our Palestinian brethren took control of the holy places, then they represent the Arab and Muslim world, Jordan in particular," the King said.

President Arafat dismissed

reports that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was suggesting that Jordan was allowing the militant Hamas movement to operate from Jordanian territories and launch media campaigns against the Palestinian leadership.

"Our relationship is a lot stronger than" Hamas issuing statements against the Palestinian leadership from Jordan, he said.

As the three heads of state were meeting, the Jordanian and Egyptian intelligence heads, Samih Al Batkhi and Omar Suleiman, and the chief of security in Gaza, Mohammad Dahlan, also met in Cairo. They explored coordination in fight against terrorism.

Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinians, who have signed peace treaties with Israel, called in a joint statement on the need to remove obstacles "that still hinder the path of peace" and increase efforts for serious negotiations on all tracks in order to confront "all attempts exerted by the enemies of peace to abort its progress."

The three leaders reaffirmed their commitment to step up cooperation and coordination towards the achievement of just and full rights for the Palestinians.

"The coming generations deserve a lot," the King said at the press conference. "Our contacts are ongoing for

achieving Arab cooperation at all levels" though it might be difficult to achieve at present.

President Mubarak, who emphasised the need to enhance cooperation among Arab countries, said he did not expect current efforts culminate in an Arab summit in the near future.

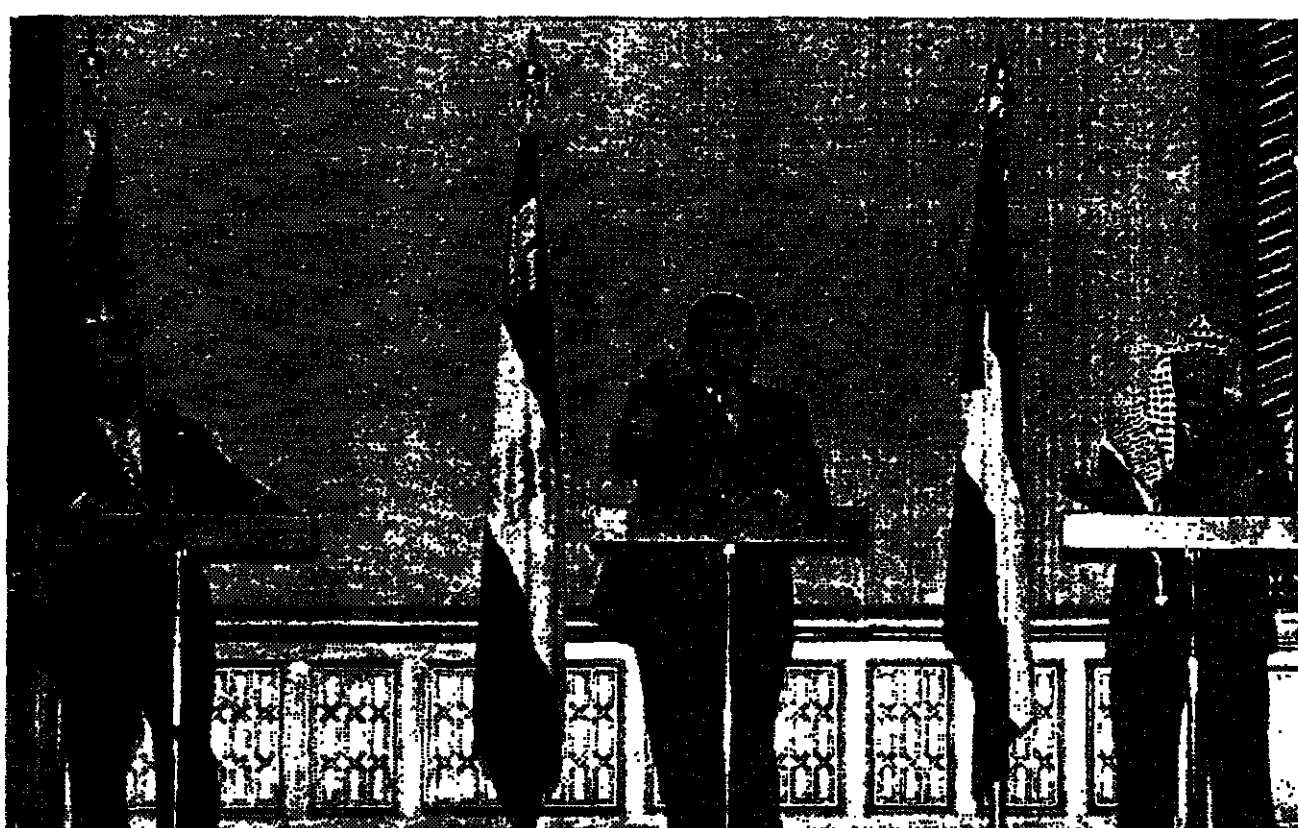
"We wish an Arab summit would be possible, but it is difficult to hold a meeting at the level of all countries," President Mubarak said. "We will try to meet and coordinate in limited summits until the picture becomes clearer."

The president said Arab countries were willing to provide all the help needed on the Syrian and Lebanese negotiations with Israel but that the Syrians opposed Arab mediation. He said he did not expect Syria reach a final peace accord with Israel this year.

In an answer to a question on a possible Syrian-Iranian (military) alliance and its influence on Arab alliances and relations in the region, President Mubarak said:

"A (current) meeting between Syria and Iran would not bother us..." It was a reference to a meeting between Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in

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His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat address a joint press conference in Cairo after a tripartite summit on Sunday (Reuters photo)

Full text of joint communique of Cairo summit

FOLLOWING is a translation of the joint communique issued at the end of the tripartite summit held in Cairo on May 12, by His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat:

THE THREE leaders, meeting in Cairo, reviewed the latest developments in the region, focusing on the various aspects of Middle East peace process. The leaders concluded that despite the bloody tragic events which took place recently in the region, the countries of the region are still looking forward to a just and comprehensive peace and are adhering to it as a firm strategic goal and a moral commitment as a

means to put an end to violence, destruction and suffering, chart a path for development and reconstruction and achieve a balanced security and stability for all parties in the region.

Therefore, the three leaders call for removing all obstacles facing the peace process and for intensifying efforts made to resume serious negotiations on all tracks as soon as possible, to keep the momentum achieved, and counter all attempts by enemies of peace to abort the peace process and halt its progress.

In their resolve to ensure coordination of Arab stands and strengthen Arab solidarity, and in their joint

endeavours to intensify the efforts by the parties concerned during the forthcoming delicate stage, the three leaders have agreed on a mechanism at the ministerial level for coordination and follow-up. The mechanism will guarantee continued cooperation and homogeneity, in addition to enhancing solidarity among the three parties, stressing at the same time the need for continued coordination and solidarity with other Arab parties.

The three leaders reiterated that the aspired for peace is genuine peace which is based on respect of mutual rights and duties, implementation of the land-for-peace principle,

withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, rejection of the concepts of expansion, superiority and dominance, recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people and respect for the Palestinian, Arab and Islamic rights as well as the legal, historical and spiritual rights in Jerusalem.

Without commitment to this concept, any talk about peace will be void and will discourage any Arab partner who is ready to shoulder his responsibility for establishing and building peace.

The three leaders agreed to hold their next summit in Amman in the first week of June.

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Khaddam meets Iraqi opposition leader

TEHRAN (AFP) — Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam held talks here Sunday with the leader of an Iraqi Shiite Muslim opposition group based in the Iranian capital, the opposition said. Mohammad Baqir Al Hakim, head of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, and Mr. Khaddam discussed the situation in Kurdish-held northern Iraq and an upcoming meeting of Iraqi opposition groups in Syria. Mr. Khaddam arrived in Tehran on Saturday to attend the inauguration of a rail link between Iran and Turkmenistan that partially revives the "silk route" between China and Turkey.

Iranian mayor on trial for corruption

TEHRAN (AFP) — A district mayor in the Iranian capital and 12 of his staff have gone on trial accused of abuse of public funds, illicit sexual relations and violating electoral laws, judicial sources said Sunday. Asghar Nassiri, mayor of Tehran's 12th district, was accused of having "illegal sexual relations" with three of his female colleagues and co-accused.

Palestinian camp on French Riviera

CANNES (AFP) — A Young Palestinian filmmaker brought the complex reality of refugee camp life to the French Riviera this weekend in a movie on show at the Cannes Film Festival. "Haifa" by 34-year-old Rashid Masharawi tells the story of a young man living in a Palestinian refugee camp days before the signing of the historic Israel-Palestine peace accord in Washington. "The film tells many stories," explained Mr. Masharawi, presenting his movie in the uncertain regard section of the film festival. The movie is not in competition.

Israel, PLO said to have agreed on delaying Hebron withdrawal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed to delay the Israeli troop pullout from most of the West Bank city of Hebron until after the May 29 elections, a senior Israeli official said Sunday.

"We have decided, and this was decided together with the Palestinians, that we should delay any further developments in Hebron for the time being in order not to create a lot of friction," Uri Dromi, director of Israel's Government Press Office, told the Associated Press.

"The most important thing is to go to the election and then the next government will carry out all the obligations reached with the Palestinians."

Israel halted its promised troop redeployment in Hebron in March after a series of bus bombings by militants killed 59 victims in Israel.

Tensions in the city, where 450 Jewish settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians, are high.

The daily newspaper Haaretz, citing a senior Labour Party official, said top Israeli and Palestinian negotiators also agreed that Israeli troops would remain in a larger portion of Hebron than originally planned.

The report said the Palestinians accepted Israel's argument that this was the best way to ensure that Israeli troops could protect the settlers in Hebron.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natche said Sunday that he was not happy with the decision, which he felt had been imposed on the Palestinians by Israel.

"The delayed redeployment from the city will make people frustrated," Mr. Natche told the Associated Press.

"In any case, we hope the

redeployment will occur, if not before the elections, then immediately afterwards."

Jewish settlers in the city oppose the Israeli pullout, arguing that Hebron is a hotbed of the militant Hamas movement and that Hamas militants pose a danger to Jews in Hebron.

"This shows that they have accepted our claims," said settler spokesman Noam Arnon. "We pointed out that there is a real danger from areas near Jewish neighbourhoods."

The settlers have said they will stage protests to try and prevent an army pullout.

Mr. Natche said 31 Norwegians would go to the city on Tuesday as part of an international observer force that will supervise implementation of the agreement. The Norwegians were expected to arrive in Israel Sunday and meet

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Netanyahu says he will strengthen settlements

NEVE ILAN, Israel (AP) — Israel's opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu vowed Sunday to strengthen Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip if he is elected prime minister.

But in a new sign of moderation, Mr. Netanyahu suggested a government controlled by his Likud Party might limit its policy to expanding existing settlements rather than building new ones.

"We'll certainly strengthen the settlement community, the Jewish Community in these areas. This is the heart of the land of Israel," Mr. Netanyahu said in an interview.

"The precise pattern, whether we increase the existing communities or add on new ones, that is something I'll leave to the consideration of our government."

Mr. Netanyahu, who has been moderating hard-line Likud policies in a bid to claim the political middle ground as the May 29 election approaches, said he would try to avoid friction with Palestinians.

"I envision autonomous zones for Palestinians and security and settlement zones under Israel (control)," said Mr. Netanyahu, speaking to reporters at his headquarters in the Golan Heights movie studios here.

"I'd like to do so with minimal friction with the Palestinian-Arab population," he added.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres' Labour government has halted the building of new settlements in the Gaza Strip and West Bank except for the expansion of settlements around Jerusalem.

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Iraq calls on Russia, China and France to use veto on sanctions

20,000 die every month, newspaper says

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq on Sunday urged France, Russia and China to use their veto power at the United Nations to obtain a lifting of oil and trade sanctions, which it said caused the deaths of 20,000 people every month.

The official Al Jumhuriyah newspaper said 1.25 million Iraqis had died since the sanctions were imposed in August 1990 and that 20,000 people on average died each month for lack of food and medicine.

"Do you realise that the renewal of sanctions for two months means the death of 40,000 more people and that you can stop this genocide?" it asked.

It accused the United States and Britain, which it denounced as "satans," of

blocking any easing of the sanctions by charging that Iraq had failed to comply with U.N. resolutions.

"What prevents the other Security Council members — France, Russia and China — from using their veto power?" it asked.

"Have you forgotten that the use of the right of veto is not the exclusive prerogative of the United States? Why don't you use it?" Al Jumhuriyah asked. "It is time that (the three countries) play a more active role to end the suffering of the Iraqi people, and the regional and

(Continued on page 7)

Kuwaiti report faults military, political leaders over invasion

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait after the military and political leaders here failed to respond to threats from Baghdad and mount a defence, deputies said at the conclusion of a four-year inquiry.

The results point to a failure of the political chain of command in directing the armed forces, and a failure of the military leadership to organise an effective deterrent, said liberal Deputy Abdullah Al Naibari.

"Orders to defend the country were given at the last minute when it was not possible to organise any land defence," Mr. Naibari said, briefing AFP about the report he and eight others drafted.

"This reflects on the whole process of building the army and chain of command in the army... there was no organisation," he added.

"We were not prepared — despite all the threats facing us — to face up to the invasion. That the armed forces were not mobilised. So that when (the aggression) did happen we found ourselves in disarray," he added.

The 520-page report — which has taken four years to complete by the nine-member parliamentary committee investigating the invasion in August 1990 — is to be debated in the National Assembly (parliament) on May 21, he said.

"The reaction from the public will be strong and that will be positive for the report," he said. "As for parliament, we will have to wait and see because the government is resisting the findings of the report."

The first two sections of the report on political issues were submitted to parliament last year, while the third and

fourth sections were presented on Saturday.

These final sections cover the organisation of the armed forces and its chain of command prior to the invasion in 1990, the state of the military after liberation in 1991 and the response to the Iraqi troop build-up in the border area in 1994.

"(The report) has been submitted for debate in parliament, so it is up to parliament to decide on it," Mr. Naibari said.

Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, and overran Kuwait's military within hours of crossing the Kuwait-Iraq border.

A coalition force, led by the United States, liberated Kuwait in February 1991.

After the invasion, Kuwait allocated \$12 billion to a programme aimed at boosting the capability of its military over 12 years.

Algeria unveils plan for reform

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria has unveiled its blueprint for sweeping constitutional reform, including a limit on presidential terms and introduction of a bicameral parliament.

Plans also call for changes to the laws governing political parties and elections in the country, which has been rocked by militancy.

Political parties would be barred from using Islam, the Arabic language and native Algerian culture — "the three cornerstones of national identity" — to further their partisan goals.

They would also have to renounce any violence to promote their causes.

The proposed changes appear in a "memorandum" sent by President Liamine Zeroual to political parties, organisations and individuals who will be taking part in a "political dialogue" in the coming weeks.

Extracts were carried by the official APS news agency.

Other proposed constitutional reforms include the creation of a so-called high council of state and a high state court.

If the changes are adopted, Algeria's president would be able to serve no more than two terms. Under the 1989 constitution, each presidential term runs for five years, but there is no term limit. A second house of parliament, to be called the Council of the Nation, will join the existing people's national assembly and consist of "elected representatives of local bodies, as well as national groups and personalities."

"The two houses will constitute parliament, thus permitting a better legislative process and guarantees of stability and continuity in state institutions," the memorandum states.

It adds that would be "judicious" to confer upon the president of the council of the nation the power to convene the constitutional council and to carry out the duties of president if the head of

state's position becomes vacant.

The proposed High Council of State would be responsible for overseeing the administration of government, while the high state court would judge the president and prime minister in cases of "high treason."

Mr. Zeroual is also suggesting a national conference on the proposed reforms in the coming weeks, to be followed by a referendum by the end of the year, parliamentary elections in early 1997 and municipal polls afterwards.

Currently, legislative duties are fulfilled by a transitional council, created in 1994 to replace a national consultative council which itself was set up in 1992 when then President Chadli Bendjedid dissolved the national assembly.

3 killed, 50 injured

Three people died and between 50 and 70 were injured, five seriously, when a booby-trapped truck exploded Saturday in Blida, south of the Algerian capital, press reports said Sunday.

Initial security service reports Saturday put the toll at one dead and "several" injured.

The dawn blast, some 50 metres from a police station, destroyed several buildings and caused serious damage to others, press reports said.

The truck, packed with almost 150 kilograms of explosives, went off in the Bab Al Rahba district of the city, 50 kilometres south of Algiers.

Sustained gunfire was heard before the blast in a bid to distract police while the truck was moved into position, the press reports said. The truck bomb was the latest in a spate of blasts and other attacks in Algeria's four-year civil war.

A series of bomb attacks rocked the Algiers region in mid April, one of which targeted a police station in the suburb of Bab Al Oued.



PERES MEETS WITH ISRAELI ARABS: Abdul Wahab AL Darawsheh, leader of the conservative Arab Democratic Party, gestures as he and other Israeli Arab political leaders meet with Prime Minister Shimon Peres (behind, left) on Sunday as the Israel Arabs flex their political muscle ahead of the May 29 general election. Israel has some 850,000 Arab citizens representing 12 per cent of the electorate and Arab politicians are making demands on Peres and threatening to withhold support unless their demands are met. Next to Mr. Darawsheh sits Abdul Malek Dahamsheh, leader of the Islamic Movement and a lawyer who represents the Hamas cleric Sheikh Ahmed Yassin who is in an Israeli prison. One of the Islamic Movement's demands in the elections is that Sheikh Yassin be released (Reuters photo)

Likud campaign taps Begin nostalgia

TEL AVIV (R) — Still trailing Prime Minister Shimon Peres in polls by about five points, the opposition Likud party delved deep into Israeli history on Saturday and campaigned on Menachem Begin, who died four years ago.

The Labour Party fought back, attempting to debunk the notion that opposition Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu can claim to have much in common with the respected Begin.

The ghost of the man who signed a peace deal with Egypt in 1979 is not the first image of an Israeli leader resurrected in campaign broadcasts ahead of May 29 elections.

Mr. Peres labour party opened their election broadcasts a few days ago by harkening back to images of slain peacemaker Yitzhak Rabin, his thundering voice still fresh in the ears of many Israelis.

Likud spin doctors had criticised Labour's use of Rabin in campaign advertisements — the only footage of candidates allowed on televi-

sion in the week before the elections — saying it demonstrated Mr. Peres' inability to stand on his own merits.

But the Likud soon followed suit.

Trying to grasp the so-called floating voters who want both peace and security, the hardline party showed footage of Begin shaking hands with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

For Likud, Mr. Begin is a symbolic reminder perhaps the only one — that they, too, have a legacy of peacemaking with their Arab neighbours.

The Labour Party shot back on Saturday, poking fun at the idea that Mr. Netanyahu, 47, and his American-style campaigning bore any likeness to Begin and his coke-bottle thick glasses.

"Bibi reminds me of Menachem Begin," said an actor on a Labour broadcast, using Mr. Netanyahu's nickname.

"All the cynicism, the style, the personality, the character, the glasses — the stamp of Menachem Begin."

He also reminds me a little bit of Arik (Ariel) Sharon, but in a different way," the actor said, referring to the ultra-bawkish Likud ex-general who ordered Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Netanyahu have hovered between four and five points apart in polls for several weeks. Mr. Peres enjoyed a robust lead over Mr. Netanyahu in the wake of Mr. Rabin's assassination in November by a right-wing Jew.

But he watched that lead swallowed up by a wave of suicide bombings in February and March that killed 59 people in Israel.

Rabbinical support

An ultra-orthodox rabbinical court, has ordered its followers to vote for Mr. Netanyahu in the election for prime minister.

The decree was made in order to "preserve the land of Israel," Berke Wolf, a leader of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement in Israel, said Sunday.

"The land of Israel is in

danger," he said, referring to the Labour Party's platform of trading the occupied territories with the Palestinian National Authority for peace.

"We need to make sure the land remains in Jewish hands."

About 35,000 Chabad voters live in Israel. Mr. Wolf said tens of thousands of other orthodox voters are expected to follow the decree as well.

The decree does not mention Mr. Netanyahu by name but calls him the "right-wing" candidate. Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Peres are the only candidates for prime minister.

The Chabad-Lubavitch community became a powerful religious and economic institution under the leadership of the late Rabbi Menachem Schneerson of Brooklyn, N.Y. The sect has a budget estimated at \$500 million for its activities, which include running schools and charities, publishing books and proselytising among secular Jews.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudis warn against housing or hiring pilgrims

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia warned it could jail and fine anyone harboring or employing Muslim pilgrims who failed to return to their home countries after the annual pilgrimage ended last month. "The Interior Ministry warns residents, Saudis or not, that they would face severe penalties if they lodge or hire stragglers," the Interior Ministry said in a warning carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. "They risk both heavy prison terms and steep fines," it said. The ministry also warned pilgrims who stayed behind illegally in the oil-rich Kingdom that they will be "imprisoned, punished and deported." Around 1.6 million pilgrims flocked this year to the Holy City of Mecca, including more than one million from overseas, for the annual pilgrimage which ended April 30. Pilgrims relinquish their passports on entering Saudi Arabia and can get them back when they leave.

'Wanted nuclear agent' traced to Libya

NUMICH (AP) — A 61-year-old German who is wanted for providing plans and equipment to Iraq to build a nuclear bomb, is believed to be hiding out in Libya, a weekly news magazine said Saturday. The Munich-based Focus magazine said German federal police, who have been seeking to arrest Karl-Heinz Schaab of Kaufbeuren in Bavaria state since early this year, have narrowed down his whereabouts to Libya, where he allegedly has been given refuge. Mr. Schaab is suspected of providing Iraq plans to construct a nuclear bomb, along with a centrifuge needed to enrich uranium, the report said. The U.N. has sent scores of weapons inspection teams into Iraq since the 1991 ceasefire ending the Gulf war. German officials have acknowledged some U.N.-gathered evidence linked German companies or individuals to technology transfers to Iraq that could be used to build mass-destruction weapons, and several longstanding investigations continue.

Peres office says he will not visit Tunis

TEL AVIV (AP) — The office of Prime Minister Shimon Peres denied a report Sunday that he would make a historic first visit to Tunis. Israel's army radio had reported that Mr. Peres was to go to Tunis and then Paris, where he would meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. But the prime minister's office said Sunday that Mr. Peres had no plans to go to either Tunis or Paris.

Man sets himself ablaze in front of police

CAIRO (AFP) — A man accused of raping his daughter immolated himself in front of a Cairo police station after failing to convince police he had been framed by his ex-wife, the Egyptian daily Al Wafd said Sunday. The 45-year-old former government employee, whose name was not given, was summoned to the station Thursday to respond to the charge filed against him by one of his daughters, the paper said. The man insisted to police that his ex-wife, who he had divorced four years ago, had forced his daughter out of spite to file charges that he had drugged the girl and then raped her, the paper said. Frustrated when his protests fell on deaf ears, he bought a container of petrol from a nearby gas station and set himself ablaze before attempting to force his way back into the police station. He died shortly after being brought to a nearby hospital.

Qatar to sign deal with Israel this year

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar is studying future trade with Israel and will sign a deal at the end of the year on gas shipments to the Jewish state from 2000, senior officials said. "Qatar is currently studying setting up trade links with Israel based on records to avoid double taxation and guarantee investments," Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasssem Ben Jaber Al Thani said in remarks reported Sunday. "Many Israelis and Qataris are making visits within this framework," he added, without specifying if they were travelling as officials or private citizens. "We will sign at the end of the year the implementation of a project between the U.S. firm Enron and the Israeli government calling for the export of Qatari gas to Israel," he said. These measures "are an example of ties that can be established with Israel," he said.

Kuwait said to order missiles from Britain

KUWAIT (R) — A newspaper reported on Sunday Kuwait would buy more \$100 million worth of British naval missiles in preference to rival French weapons.

Diplomats had no official confirmation the Gulf state had made a final choice.

Al Watan said Kuwait had chosen British Aerospace's Sea Skua missile over MM-15 missiles made by France's Aerospatiale installation of eight fast patrol boats worth \$500 million sold to Kuwait by France in 1995.

The newspaper said it expected a sale agreement worth about \$160 million to be signed very soon. A Defence Ministry spokesman could not be contacted immediately for comment.

One defence expert said the value of both the French and British offer was nearer \$100 million. Diplomats said the com-

petition for the sale was nearing an end but Kuwaiti officials had given no firm indication to the competing companies about which weapon they would select.

The patrol boats made by Constructions Mecaniques de Normandie will be delivered over the next four years.

Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah met senior British government officials including Prime Minister John Major on a visit to London last week. The missile contract is believed to have been one of the subjects discussed, defence experts say.

Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud is also on a visit to London and is expected to meet Defence Secretary Michael Portillo for talks on defence cooperation.

Mubarak sends 13 Brotherhood activists to military trial

CAIRO (Agencies) — Unbowed by international criticism, President Hosni Mubarak has ordered 13 members of the Muslim Brotherhood to stand trial before a military court in yet another move to weaken Egypt's largest opposition group.

The defendants, including former Parliament members, union leaders and professors, were arrested April 2 and accused of trying to take control of Egypt's mosques, unions and charity groups.

The specific charges were not disclosed and no date has been set for the trial, officials said Sunday.

Mr. Mubarak's decision was the fourth time Brotherhood members have been referred to military courts during a 17-month government campaign against the Muslim fundamentalist group, which is outlawed but was long considered too powerful and popular to suppress.

The Brotherhood, one of the oldest fundamentalist groups, renounced violence

in the 1970s in its attempt to bring about Islamic law and was even allowed to enter Egypt's legislative elections in coalition with other political parties.

But the government has imprisoned dozens of its members after they were said to be linked to militant organisations.

Human rights groups have strongly criticised the use of the military courts to try civilians. The courts often hand down stiff sentences and defendants do not have the right to appeal.

During a military trial of 82 Brotherhood members last year, Amnesty International called the defendants "prisoners of conscience" and said that they should be freed immediately.

Most prominent among the 13 arrested in April was Abu Al Ala Maadi, secretary-general of the powerful engineers' union. Mr. Maadi has been instrumental in attempts to win government approval for the Islamic-

oriented Centre Party. Many of the party's founders included the Brotherhood's younger, emerging leaders.

Two other founders of the party were also arrested. Another leading detainee was Mohammad Mahdi Osman Akel, who used to serve as the Brotherhood's representative in Western Europe.

The Brotherhood has denied any links with militant organisations like the Islamic group and Holy War. Since 1972, those groups have sought to overthrow the government and install Islamic rule in an insurgency that has claimed the lives of more than 950 people.

25 detained

Police have detained 25 followers of a blind Muslim fundamentalist cleric jailed in the United States, suspecting they were planning to kill policemen and blow up police buildings, the Al Ahram newspaper said.

Sheikh Omar Abdul Rah-

man is in jail in the United States, convicted of abetting a militant plan to blow up the United Nations headquarters.

The government newspaper said on Saturday that his followers in Fayyoun, a large oasis southwest of Cairo which is the cleric's home town, had tried to revive the militant Gamaa Al-Islamiya (Islamic Group) in the area and had gathered a stash of weapons for the operations they were planning.

The Fayyoun group, led by Gaber Abdul Hamid Abu Sharoud, was recruiting new members and meeting in the mosques and prayer houses they control in the area, it added.

The Gamaa is the largest group fighting to overthrow President Mubarak and set up a strict Islamic state.

It has been active mostly in the Nile Valley provinces of Assiut and Minya, south of Cairo, but Fayyoun has been largely peaceful for some years.

Hardliners block scholar from speaking in Tehran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Several students were arrested Sunday after Islamic hardliners prevented a secularist intellectual from holding a speech at a Tehran University, police sources said.

Members of Ansar-Hizbollah (Partisans of the Party of God) assembled in front of Amir Kabir Technical School in central Tehran, where Abdul Karim Sorush, a moderate philosopher favouring separation of state and religion, was to deliver his speech.

In an angry speech to the crowd, a member of Ansar vowed not to allow "those espousing liberal ideas and favouring separation of state from religion from frequenting universities," Kayhan newspaper said.

A scuffle ensued between the fundamentalists and pro-Sorush students, and several of them were later arrested by police. Chanting slogans against Western "cultural invasion," the crowd threatened to confront "liberals and secularists" within the political establishment in Iran.

Officials at the university said earlier that the speech would not take place.

Backed by the conservative Shiite Muslim clergy, hardliners have stepped up violent actions against any "signs of corruption" and "Western decadence" which they say is spreading through Iranian society.

Mr. Sorush, a university professor and considered a main contemporary Islamic thinker, has been attacked by hardliners several times in the past in universities in Tehran and Esfahan.

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PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 Bonkers (cartoon)
15:25 Richie Rich
15:45 Playabout
16:10 Doc — Animals of the Mediterranean
16:30 Comedy — Bustin Loose
17:00 News Flash
17:02 Ordy
17:15 I, Ecce Des Funs
18:00 Magazine — Thalass
19:00 News in French
19:15 Magazine — Cinq Sur Cinq
19:30 Comedy — The Nanny
20:00 Rhythms That Speak
20:30 Milner — Fenwick
20:34 Doc — Rock Around the World
21:05 Echo
21:05 Doc — 100 Years of Capitalism in
22:00 News in English
22:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
23:10 P.S. I Love U
23:55 Taurus Rising

PRAYER TIMES

04:07 Fajr
05:36 Sunrise
12:27 Dhuhr
16:12 Asr
19:20 Maghrib
20:56 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Southfield, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Latin Catholics Church Tel. 614190
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 628262
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625262
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Relative hot weather conditions

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

will prevail with temperatures dropping slightly and winds north-westerly moderate. Khamasini weather conditions will prevail on Tuesday with dry and hot conditions affecting the Kingdom. In Amman, it will be relatively hot, winds northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17/31
Aqaba 23/37
Deserts 16/33
Jordan Valley 20/37

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 35, Aqaba 37, Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Khalil Tushug 757253
Dr. Wafiq Qudus 893542
Dr. Yabai Abdul Rahim 834072
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 834032
Foreword pharmacy 778336
Al Asoma pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRSD:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484
Aldus pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Fawaz Karadeh 543918
Khalil pharmacy 985417

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 731111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200
EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 846390
Public Security Department 63031
Hotel Complaints 606800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 731111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200
HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussain Medical Centre 81381/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Aklah Maternity, J. Amn 843441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palastine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Italian, Al-Musharraf 775112/26
J. Amn, J. Ashrafieh 891611/15
Amal Hospital 607155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Im Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990790
IRSD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200. 5 and Marka Airport Tel. 8752015 where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
07:25 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
08:20 Sanaa (RJ)
09:35 Jeddah (RJ)

10:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:05 Beirut (RJ)
12:20 Cairo (RJ)
12:25 London (RJ)
12:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
13:45 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
14:05 Bangkok (RJ)
02:00 Milan, Amsterdam (RJ)
04:20 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:00 Hanoi (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:00 Istanbul (TK)
07:45 Beirut, London (BA)
11:45 Cairo (MS)
12:00 Khartoum (SD)
14:30 Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
16:00 Vienna (OS)
16:30 Kiev (GU)
15:00 Vienna (OS)
15:30 Kiev (GU)
20:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)
01:20 Amsterdam (KL)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
09:20 Aqaba (RW)
10:40 Amman QAJA (arrives at Marka Airport at 10:20) (RW)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:15 Beirut (RJ)
09:00 New Delhi, Jakarta, Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)
09:30 Aqaba, Milan (RJ)
11:45 Jeddah (RJ)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in its per kg.
Apple 700/500
Banana 600/600
Banana (Mukammal) 520/520
Banana (imported) 820/500
Cabbage 80/50
Carrot 270/150
Cauliflower 170/100
Cucumbers (large) 140/140
Cucumbers (small) 220/140
Eggplant 160/110
Fava beans 250/270
Garlic 170/120
Garlic (green) 250/270
Lemon 450/300
Marrow (large) 200/120
Marrow (small) 270/200



HRH Crown Prince Hassan Sunday visits the Safawi Badia Research and Development Programmes Centre and surrounding areas (Petra photo)

Crown Prince tours badia centre, urges programme participation

AMMAN (J.T.) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan Sunday visited the Northern Badia regions stopping first at the Safawi Badia Research and Development Programmes Centre where he met with members of the centre's steering committee and the experts and workers on the programme.

He also listened to a briefing on the progress of the programme. Prince Hassan stressed the importance of the local badia people's participation in the programme as an asset in the development of the region.

The Crown Prince toured several badia settlements and heard the residents' requests, proposals and ideas for developing their region.

He also inspected several of the programme's population and water harvesting

centres, and environmental and livestock projects.

The Crown Prince later told Jordan Television that he hoped that the scientists at the research centre will develop new techniques to meet the local demand for animal feed.

Earlier the steering committee had discussed a mechanism for monitoring the progress of the programme's scientific aspect, a plan of action and the funding of the programme which is partly financed by assistance from the United Kingdom.

The committee said that in response to a request from the United Nations University the Safawi centre will be transformed into a regional centre functioning within the framework of and receiving support from the United Nations.

The committee also recommended that joint projects be prepared and implemented in the badia in cooperation with several American institutions and has approved of a special British-supported badia development fund to finance the research programmes.

A British participant in the meeting told Jordan Television "I think we have fulfilled some of the objectives of the programme in two to three years thanks to the availability of the equipment and the participation of a good number of scientists. We have already produced a lot of research that has a real applied benefit. This is not pure research for the interest of the academics. This is research that will immediately be put to use for the benefit of the badia people."

Children's rights activists say draft child law lacking

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ministers, parliamentarians, attorneys and children's rights activists Sunday criticised the draft law on the rights of child saying it was formulated "too quickly and overlooks many important issues."

Officials and activists, meeting at a one-day roundtable session, stressed the need to carefully study the draft law and to pinpoint the important elements which are either missing or improperly implemented in the draft law to insure comprehensive child protection legislation.

The law, was recently drafted by the Ministry of Social Development along with human rights activists, specialists in child education and non-governmental organisations.

"The draft law was written too quickly, and the child abuse issue, a major problem in Jordan, was not clearly defined by the authors and there is a need to define child abuse and to define the forms of abuse being practised against children before planning a draft law," Deputy Toujan Faisal told the gathering at the morning roundtable session.

Ms. Faisal also criticised an article in the proposed law which states that if a mother is unable to prove who the biological father of her child is, she is forced to sign a document giving up her child to an orphanage.

"It is not fair to take the child away because children need their mothers, and what is more important to our society is the child's

welfare," Ms. Faisal said.

Ms. Faisal also asked the authors of the draft legislation that when they rewrite the law they recognise the child's right to choose his/her religion and political trend.

Ahmad Najdawi, an attorney, also criticised the rapidity in writing the new law adding that the authors did not specify which courts would have jurisdiction in child matters.

He added that there is a need to find alternative solutions for abandoned new-borns and homeless "since our laws forbid adoption."

"We have to create a Fatwa law (Islamic law) to allow adoption to insure a proper life for those children," Mr. Najdawi told the roundtable.

According to Abdullah Khatib, president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies, three to five new-borns are picked up from garbage containers weekly and they are cared for by the Italian Hospital.

"Where is the 'right to life' for these children?" he asked.

In April children's rights activists criticised the same draft law because they said "it does not take into consideration the child's well-being."

HRH Princess Basma, who opened the roundtable session, told the gathering that the child is the hope of the country and will play a role in developing it in the future.

"We need to fill the gaps and to respond to any area that could help benefit our children," Princess Basma said.

Farah Daghestani, president of Princess Basma



HRH Princess Basma Sunday presides over a roundtable discussion of a draft children's rights law (Petra photo)

Women's Resource Centre (PBWRC), said forming a draft law for children in Jordan is an important step in the social development of the Kingdom.

"Not only will the new draft law emphasise the rights and duties of children, it will also help in strengthening the national and official interest of children's issues in all aspects," Ms. Daghestani said adding that "hopefully the draft law will work on improving the status of children and guarantee them a bright future."

"We as government and non-governmental organisation officials should bear the responsibility and perform our job properly by conducting serious discussions and objective studies," said Ms. Daghestani.

Minister of State for

Prime Ministry Affairs Hisham Tel suggested forming a children's national fund and collecting donations to support needy children and needy families.

Presiding over the roundtable discussion, Minister of Justice Abdul Karim Dughmi asked the participants to submit their suggestions and proposals and to present them to the committee of authors.

The event was organised by the PBWRC in cooperation with the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNFW).

The PBWRC was established in March with the aim of advancing women's position in society. The centre targets women at the grassroots level by offering activities such as workshops and training courses.

The JNFW, a non-govern-

mental organisation, was established in January 1996, to maintain close cooperation with all other non-governmental organisations aiming at improving women's status and condition in the Kingdom.

Sunday's event was also attended by the ministers of Social Development, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Health, Education, Labour, and Culture, who also stated their suggestions regarding the amendments to the draft law.

The recommendations and amendment will be referred to the legal committee formed by the JNFW to be redrafted and referred to the concerned authorities for further review.

The child draft law then must be endorsed by the Cabinet then Parliament to become a law.

EU official urges region to open borders to free trade

AMMAN (Petra) — A senior European Union (EU) official Sunday concluded a several-day visit to Jordan and urged the Kingdom and its neighbouring countries to open up their borders to free trade.

Eberhard Rhein, director of the Mediterranean and Middle East Division of the EU in Brussels, told reporters at a press conference Sunday that the EU is now planning to sign partnership agreements with Jordan and the other countries in the region before the end of this year. Dr. Rhein said Jordan will be the first eastern Arab country to conclude such an agreement in view of the country's economic and political potentials.

During his stay in Jordan, Dr. Rhein attended the inauguration of a permanent headquarters for the secretariat of the Economic Development Group of the Multilateral Track of the Middle East peace process.

The secretariat office which was set up by the Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference held in Amman last October, will coordinate and oversee regional development projects.

According to Dr. Rhein, His Majesty King Hussein's latest visit to the EU member countries has contributed to further bolstering political, socio-economic and cultural relations between Jordan and the European continent.

In his statement, Mr. Rhein said that representatives of 43 countries attending the economic development group meetings here have unanimously decided to set up their general secretariat headquarters in Jordan and pledged to provide all facilities to bolster economic cooperation among the region's countries.

He said the EU has offered a great deal of technical assistance to Jordan, Egypt, Palestine and Israel noting that \$10 million allo-

cated for this year will finance feasibility studies of infrastructure projects.

He said these regional projects are highly important to the four countries and are designed to set up railways and transportation facilities to contribute to regional economic integration.

Dr. Rhein said that the EU hopes to see free trade in the region and to see the Arab airports of Amman, Al Arish (Egypt), Cairo and Tel Aviv as well as the open borders between the countries of the region contributing towards genuine and sustainable development.

The multilateral track of the Arab-Israeli peace process, launched in 1991, also features working groups on water, the environment, security and refugees, and is aimed at fostering cooperation between the countries of the Middle East and North Africa.

'Regional cooperation needed to manage water resources'

AMMAN (J.T.) — French Embassy Cultural Attaché Agnes Romatet told a meeting Sunday that her country will continue to cooperate with Jordan through the Water and Environmental Research and Study Centre at the University of Jordan in the field of managing irrigation and in the exchange of expertise and information.

She said the scarcity of water in the region requires that the Arab states increase their cooperation with the advanced nations to ensure the use of modern technology in the management of water resources.

Centre Director Mohammad Shatanawi addressed the meeting which was organised by the University of Jordan and the French embassy and reviewed cooperation between the organisers of the regional meeting in the transfer of technology, the exchange of expertise and experts

visits and research programmes in water and irrigation fields.

During a meeting held in Amman in January this year, French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajotet said his country will continue to provide financial and technical assistance to the various regional water ministries through an international water bureau based in Paris.

French experts will deliver lectures during the five-day meeting which is attended by 45 participants from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Tunisia, Oman and Palestine.

The University of Jordan said that the centre and the embassy have been cooperating in the field of research and study in water and irrigation over the past two years and have been conducting experiments at the Jordan Valley and Madaba with positive results.

Irsheidat says tourism promotion targets U.S., Europe and Far East

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irsheidat Sunday said Jordan was determined to intensify programmes to market its historic, archaeological and tourist treasures abroad, especially in the United States, Europe and the Far East.

Dr. Irsheidat was speaking during a visit to the Jordan Tourism Board (JTB) where he met with Akram Masarweh in his capacity as chairman of a hoteliers and restaurateurs association which is also called the Jordan Tourism Board. Mr. Masarweh is also secretary general of the Ministry of Tourism.

Also attending the meeting were association board members.

The parties reviewed the JTB's programmes to promote the Kingdom's tourism industry.

JTB Executive Director Marwan Khouri outlined the organisation's plans and programmes for promoting Jordanian tourist attractions abroad, saying that the Kingdom was participating in various world tourism exhibitions and festivals to help market these attractions.

According to the minister, more than 223,000 tourists visited Jordan in the first quarter of 1996. The figure, he said, marks a record year after the sharp fall caused by the 1990 Gulf crisis.

Dr. Irsheidat told Reuters that the tourism sector registered a 19.25 per cent rise in the first three months of 1996 over the same period last year.

He added that American and European tourists made up most of the foreign visitors to the Kingdom so far this year.

He also expected tourism revenues to reach \$1 billion in 1996, up from \$700 million last year.

After the JTB visit, Dr. Irsheidat attended a meeting at the Department of Antiquities



The Treasury at Petra (file photo)

at which amendments to a 1988 law on the protection of artifacts which constitute a national wealth.

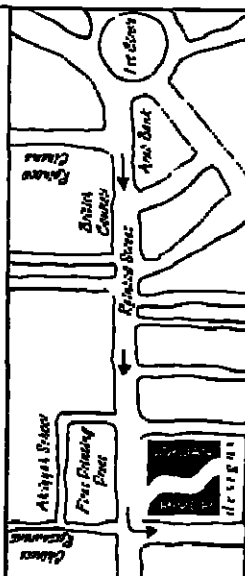
The amendments to the law call for heavier penalties to be imposed on those who tamper with the country's antiquities, steal artifacts or excavate them without licence. They also have provisions for stricter penalties against those who try to smuggle artifacts abroad.

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"NEW BEGINNINGS" Introducing our baby line along with our new Spring collection. At JRD showroom, Jabel Amman, 1st Circle. 9-23 May, 1996, from 9.00 am - 9.00 pm. Tel. 613081-2



WHAT'S GOING ON

MUSICAL PLAY
* Jordanian grand musical play "Meadows of Dreams" (on children's rights) at Al Hassan Bin Talal Auditorium, University of Jordan at 8:00 p.m.

FILM
* "Quai des Brumes" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE
* "Early Christianity in Arabia" by Dr. Karl Schmitt-Korte at the Friends of Archaeology (FoA) Centre at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS
* Works from the collection of Musa del Gradaba Espanol contemporaneo-Marbella "From Picasso to our Present Days" at Darat Al Funun, Jabel Weibdeh, until June 6.
* "Arab Cartoonists" exhibition at Alia Art Gallery, Jabel Amman, until May 16.
* Exhibition of iron-made furniture by Salim Bandak at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Nour Al Hussein Foundation, until May 31.
* Stamps exhibition by Musa Dabbas at Al Hashimiya Library, until May 20.
* Works by Tawfiq Yahya at the Royal Cultural Centre, until May 16.
* Annual Spring Exhibition at the Jordan River Design entitled "New Beginnings" until May 23. (Tel. 613081/2).
* Abstract art by Afnan Al Sheikhli at the Phoenix Gallery, Gardens street, until May 15.
* Recent works by Ayyad Al Nimer at Darat Al Funun, Jabel Weibdeh, until June 12.
* Works by Syrian artist Ibtisam Al Ansari at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabel Amman, until May 16.

Congress retains Rao, seeks to block BJP from taking power

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's Congress (I) Party rallied behind outgoing Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Sunday and decided to team up with a centre-left alliance to block Hindu nationalists from taking power.

The 111-year-old Congress warded off a leadership crisis by retaining Mr. Rao as its president, then said its chief priority was to prevent the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) from assuming office.

The Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest policy-making body, said the mandate given by Indian voters in the recent general elections was in favour of "a secular alternative" to the aggressively pro-Hindu BJP.

Party General Secretary B.P. Maurya said the Congress would either support the claim by the National Front-Left Front (NF-LF) alliance to form the next government or form a coalition with it.

Mr. Maurya said it was also possible that the "Congress may lead a coalition government because we are the single largest party" after the BJP. "It is just possible that it may be led by P.V. Narasimha Rao," he said.

The BJP has emerged with the most seats in a hung parliament produced by the staggered general elections which ended Tuesday, but well short

of a majority in the 545-member Lok Sabha, or lower house of parliament.

Both the NF-LF, a loosely knit coalition, and the Congress (I) have resolved to block its rise to power, saying its pro-Hindu posturing endangered religious harmony in the nation of 930 million people.

NF-LF leaders said they would seek the Congress's support, appearing to drop an earlier condition that they would do so only if the Congress dropped Mr. Rao as its leader.

"Our greatest concern is to prevent the BJP from coming to power," said S. Jaipal Reddy, a leader of the Janata Dal (People's Party), a key component in the NF-LF.

The BJP blasted the Congress for adopting what it called a "negative approach."

"This mandate was clearly in favour of the BJP," Narendra Modi, a party leader, said. "The Congress should have accepted the mandate gracefully instead of trying to keep the BJP out of office under the mask of ideology."

The Congress fought and lost the elections on the plank of providing stability, not secularism," Mr. Modi said. "How can they talk of communalism now?"

He said the NF-LF, which is yet to elect a leader or decide on the compo-

sition of a coalition, had "too many bridges to cross before the swearing-in," adding that the BJP's chances of taking office were still bright.

The NF-LF postponed a planned meeting Sunday that was to discuss government-formation strategy, centrist leader Ram Vilas Paswan told the Press Trust of India.

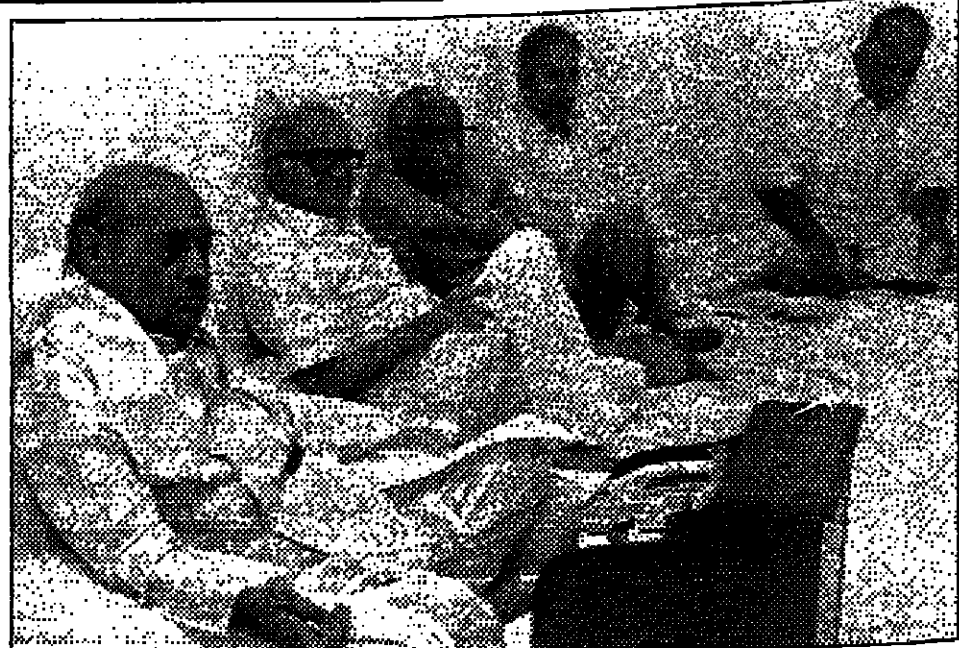
The Congress, meanwhile, was set to elect Mr. Rao as the leader of its parliamentary wing late Sunday after retaining him as the party chief in a bid to preserve a facade of unity despite calls for his ouster.

"The Congress is intact. Mr. Rao is our leader, our undisputed leader," said party General-Secretary Maurya.

The 74-year-old Rao, who submitted his government's resignation Friday, had been under growing pressure to step down as party president following its worst performance ever in a national election.

But the participants in the CWC meeting decided that no single individual should be held responsible for the rout, Congress officials said.

The BJP has so far bagged 156 seats to become the largest group in the Lok Sabha, while the Congress has won 134. The NF-LF has some 100 MPs while small regional parties and independents have won the rest.



India's caretaker prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao squats with senior Congress Party colleagues at a meeting of its top-level working committee in his New Delhi residence Sunday. Congress Party dissidents favouring a possible change of leadership forced the meeting to assess the party's poor performance in Indian general elections this month (Reuters photo)

EU to pledge firmer links with Russia

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Union, privately haunted by the spectre of Boris Yeltsin losing the Russian presidential election in June, will outline plans Monday for helping Moscow stay the course of reform.

Foreign ministers from the 15-nation bloc will approve a long-awaited "action plan" for Russia, designed to promote economic liberalisation and democracy.

"The aim is to get it passed in time for the Russian election," a European Commission official said last week. "The EU wants to give a signal to the reform process."

The plan is divided into five parts — helping democratic reforms, economic cooperation, cooperation in justice and home affairs, security and foreign policy.

It commits the EU to actions ranging from working to bring Russia into the World Trade Organisation to twinning cities to forge cultural links.

The EU, like much of the West, has placed almost all its hopes for Russia on Mr. Yeltsin, only to see him trail Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov in most opinion polls.

Mr. Yeltsin, seeking to boost his chances, has been talking of forging a pre-election union with liberal challenger Grigory Yavlinsky for the June 16 election.

Most EU countries have been bracing for the possibility of a Yeltsin defeat and the return of a Communist leader in Moscow.

Ireland, which takes over the EU presidency from Italy a couple of weeks after the election, expects Russia and the question of what will happen in Bosnia when NATO

leaves, to dominate the bloc's business for the rest of the year.

"There's enormous concern about what's going to happen (in Russia)," a senior European government official said, adding there was little the EU could do but worry.

The situation has left the EU with few options other than to continue urging Moscow on its path reform path, as with the action plan.

"It's not so much what we're going to do. It's what's going to happen on their side that counts," the official said.

"What the action plan points to is a general commitment to keep the relationship on an even keel."

In the economic realm, the plan says the EU will help develop trade links and promote economic regional cooperation, it also pledges to help Russia modernise its production system, including encouraging modern information technologies, creating an environment in which foreign investment can flourish, and encouraging anti-monopolies.

Concerned by the growing crime wave from Central and Eastern Europe, the EU paper also calls for action to combat organised crime, in particular drug-related crime. It says priority should be given to dealing with refugees and displaced persons to fight illegal immigration.

On security and foreign policy issues, the EU says it wants to develop more contacts with Moscow in fields ranging from disarmament to arms export controls.

3 Indians die after scaling Everest

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Three Indian climbers died in a blizzard while descending from Mount Everest Friday, the Indian Mountaineering Federation (IMF) announced Sunday.

"There is no chance of survival," said IMF Secretary M.S. Kohli, a veteran climber who has scaled the world's highest peak.

He said the bodies of the three Indian climbers, members of a team from the paramilitary Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), had been spotted at separate heights on the 8,848-metre mountain.

The ITBP mountaineers conquered Everest by climbing its northern face from the Chinese side of the Himalayas, the first Indian team to do so, Mr. Kohli said, adding that their bodies were found by some Japanese climbers who were on their way down.

Mr. Kohli said the Japanese did not attempt a rescue operation because of the blizzard howling in Everest's upper reaches.

"I cannot blame the Japanese as they must

have had some reason," he said.

The three Indian climbers belonged to a 24-member ITBP team which left New Delhi on March 22 to assault the world's highest peak from its rugged northern face, accessible from China.

The IMF official said a four-member ITBP rescue team which left a summit camp at a height of 8,320 metres Saturday were overcome by exhaustion and could not reach the bodies in the bad weather.

"The weather has been very bad on both the Chinese and Nepalese sides of Everest in this pre-monsoon season," he said. "At least five members of an international expedition are feared killed on the south-east ridge."

According to reports from Kathmandu, one of those five climbers had been found alive.

Before the weather turned bad, 24 climbers from four expeditions reached the top of Everest. Eleven teams have been given permits by the Nepalese authorities to climb the peak during spring, reports in Kathmandu said.

Italy's Bossi, seeking secession, sets up own shadow government

MANTOVA, Italy (R) — Italy's Northern League party, which has already set up its own self-styled parliament, Sunday elected a "shadow government" of the north in its latest push for secession from the poor south.

Members voted unanimously by a show of hands for Giancarlo Pajiarini, a former minister in the 1994 government of Silvio Berlusconi, to become its prime minister. Mr. Pajiarini, nominated by League leader Umberto Bossi, was the only candidate.

Mr. Bossi last year founded a "parliament of the north" in the mediaeval town of Mantova to push for a federal constitution and electoral reform.

He wants a separate state in the north called "Padania" and has called for Italy to be divided like Czechoslovakia.

The League's new government has 10 members. The party, meeting

in a villa in Bagnolo San Vito that was once the seat of a Nazi commando, also set up a 10-member Provisional Committee for the Liberation of Padania.

A fully-fledged committee will be elected on June 2 in Pontida. The Provisional Liberation Committee decided to spend the next two weeks drawing up a statute.

"This government is a great hope for Padania and if, as I believe, it is true that this country is heading for collapse with no way out, this government will represent the hope that in the end there will be a way out," Mr. Bossi said before the vote.

The firebrand leader, capitalising on northern discontent with high taxes, inefficient bureaucracy and mainstream political confusion, drew unexpectedly strong support in last month's general election, but most political commentators do not

believe many of his voters really want secession.

Mr. Pajiarini vowed that his government would act "firmly and decisively".

"We want to achieve a Europe of the regions," he said. "Everyone's got it in for the League because obviously, to make this country more rational, we have to change the map of power."

"Now they're all united against the League — it's better that way, things are clearer," he said.

Luciano Violante, elected speaker of Rome's Chamber of Deputies (lower house) Friday, used a sensational inaugural speech to slam Mr. Bossi's secessionist drive, saying the use of force would be legitimate to prevent the break-up of Italy.

Pope John Paul, who kept the church out of the election campaign, last week joined the debate about secession, saying unity was one of Italy's most precious assets.

Rebels kill 3 soldiers in Jaffna

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas shot dead at least three government soldiers in Sri Lanka's northern peninsula of Jaffna, the Defence Ministry here said Sunday.

Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked the troops Saturday at Sarassali in the Jaffna peninsula in an area that was brought under military control last month, the ministry said.

It said there had been a brief fire fight with the guerrillas, but rebel casualties were not immediately known.

The latest attack came hours after the LTTE ambushed an army patrol and attacked police sentries in eastern Sri Lanka, killing 16 security personnel and losing at least 50 of their own men.

The Tigers attacked an army patrol at Morakotanchenai in the district of Batticaloa Saturday afternoon, killing 14 and wounding 19 others, including an officer, defence officials said.

"There was a brief but a fierce fire fight," a military spokesman here said. "Reinforcements have recovered the bodies of nine

terrorists. But they may have suffered more casualties."

The Defence Ministry in a statement said that at least 50 guerrillas were killed and another 30 wounded in the confrontation.

Defence sources said MI-24 helicopter gunships had been deployed to attack the Tigers while artillery units also went into action to pound suspected LTTE bases in the area.

In other separate incidents in the same district, the LTTE shot dead a police constable and a para military home guard and destroyed an electricity transformer, officials said.

The violence came as thousands of soldiers consolidated their gains in the northern Jaffna peninsula where the LTTE earlier maintained a de facto separate state till they were driven out late last year.

The LTTE is leading a protracted campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated. More than 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting since 1972.

China demands Taiwan commit to reunification

BEIJING (R) — China told rival Taiwan Sunday that verbal assurances of commitment to the "one China" principle carried little weight and demanded concrete action to prove the island supported reunification with the mainland.

"It is high time for the Taiwan authorities to take concrete actions since they have made commitments that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait should keep to the 'one China' principle," said a commentary issued by the official Xinhua News Agency.

It said some unidentified people acting under instruction from Taiwan authorities had tried to defend the separatist activities of their leaders.

These individuals had said the island's nationalist rulers had never acted counter to the principle of one China and said Taiwan had the right to participate in the United Nations, Xinhua charged.

"Actually those absurdities are nothing new," Xinhua said.

Xinhua was apparently referring to remarks last month by Koo Chen-Fu, chairman of the semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) that handles ties with Beijing in the absence of official relations.

China has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since the two separated with the defeat of the Nationalists at the end of China's civil war in 1949.

Beijing insists the island is not entitled to foreign recognition and threatens to renounce it by force if Taipei declares independence.

The SEF was rebuffed last month when it tried to revive talks with China that have been stalled since Beijing flew into a rage over a private visit by Taiwan's President Lee Teng-Hui to the United States last June.

Beijing regards the trip as evidence that Mr. Lee pays only lip service to his government's avowed goal of reunification and is secretly pushing for the island's independence.

"The present problem is that the Taiwan authorities are not willing to adhere to the 'one China' principle even in words," Xinhua said.

However, it left the door open for talks, saying relations could grow if Taiwan gave commitments to reunification "not only in words but also in deeds."

China has accused Mr. Lee of promoting the island's independence even while stating that he favoured reunification with China.

Hong Kong to speed up repatriation of Vietnamese despite violence, escapes

HONG KONG (AFP) — The Hong Kong government will speed up the forced return of Vietnamese asylum seekers this month, despite rioting and a mass escape which turned a camp here into a virtual war zone.

Scores were injured and dozens of buildings and vehicles torched in the violence which began at the Whitehead Detention Centre Friday. Over 100 inmates, many armed with homemade weapons, escaped from the camp.

Police said around 28 were still at large Sunday after four more were found in a continuing manhunt.

The authorities said one reason that the inmates, who were resisting forced repatriation, torched the camp was to destroy immigration records and hamper their return to Hanoi.

"It did cause us a little bit of inconvenience over the last couple of days in identifying individual Vietnamese," Secretary for Security Peter Lai said Sunday.

However, Mr. Lai added that the forced return programme would, nonetheless, be speeded up with 600 Vietnamese being sent home against their will this month. The forced repatriation programme runs alongside a voluntary scheme.

Riot police fired thousands of rounds of teargas as an estimated 3,000 asylum-seekers, some with spears and stones, went on the rampage during the two days of violence in the Whitehead Camp.

On Sunday, hundreds of residents of near-

by Shatin Town demonstrated outside the camp's main entrance against the Vietnamese, and called for stronger security measures.

"We can see from this incident in Whitehead Detention Centre the violence is escalating," said Shatin District Board member Lau Kong-Wah.

"How can the government cope with this kind of happening? If all the detention centres in Hong Kong riot then it will be a great risk," Mr. Lau said.

One local protester said she feared being taken hostage by an escaping inmate.

Commissioner for Correctional Services Raymond Lai said tension was still high at Whitehead although some instigators have been moved to local prisons.

But their removal did not mean an end to the violence, he warned.

"There are bound to be others that spring up if you put the trouble-makers away," he said.

Refugee concern lawyer Pam Baker said the government's detention policy was partly to blame for the trouble.

"The Hong Kong government has not been open to suggestions which would allow a civilised and humanitarian end to the saga," Mr. Baker said.

There are around 18,000 Vietnamese boatpeople in Hong Kong camps. The vast majority has been deemed economic migrants and not eligible for asylum in a third country.

Charles accuses Diana of divorce 'blackmail'

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles has accused Princess Diana of blackmail and warned his estranged wife that she is dragging him into the bloodiest divorce in Britain, a leading tabloid said Sunday.

The Sunday Mirror report was the latest media leak on the acrimonious divorce battle between the heir to the throne and his wife that has plunged the 1,000-year-old monarchy into crisis and severely dented the House of Windsor's popularity.

The bitter end to their 15-year marriage has turned into a propaganda war to win public sympathy.

The Sunday Mirror cited Prince Charles telling one of his closest friends: "We're heading for the bloodiest divorce in Britain and Princess Diana must take the blame for that."

It said Princess Diana claimed after a meeting last week with her mother-in-law, Queen Elizabeth, that she had won a £30 million (\$45.85 million) settlement and full custody of her sons Prince William and Prince Harry.

But as Princess Diana took a weekend break on the Spanish island of Majorca and Prince Charles played polo in Britain, a

friend of the prince told the paper: "The truth is that Diana was very politely but firmly snubbed by Her Majesty."

Another close confidant quoted by the tabloid said: "The prince is digging his heels in. He regards Diana's current tactics as virtual blackmail."

Last week, royalty-obsessed tabloids said Princess Diana had warned the monarch that she would pull out of divorce talks unless they quickly show some sign of progress.

A spokeswoman at Buckingham Palace said the queen did not want public speculation about the divorce negotiations.

"The point was made at the time of the announcement that the princess had agreed to the divorce that it was the queen's hope that these discussions could be conducted privately for the sake of the children," she said. "That continues to be the case."

Under British law, Prince Charles could obtain a so-called "no-consent" divorce at the end of next year, when the couple will have been separated for five years.

But in December the queen wrote to them both urging them to arrange a quick divorce.

McEnroe restrings life with own art gallery

LONDON (R) — John McEnroe, the "bad boy" of tennis who became world number one, is now ready to conquer the art world with his own gallery in New York. "One of the best things about having a gallery is learning. I am light years behind those sharks out there. It's an intense world, the art world," the 36-year-old McEnroe said. The player famed for yelling "you can't be serious" at line judges also finds that art calms him. "It settles me down. I don't need more of getting amped up. I need to slow down," he told the Sunday Telegraph in an interview from the New York loft that he has converted into a gallery. McEnroe, who first indulged his passion for art on the international tennis circuit, said: "I was on the road 40 weeks a year and going to galleries opened my eyes. Finally I am into something that makes me feel good without having to be number one. Art is not all about competition," said McEnroe, now busy presenting an exhibition of 20th century nudes.

Bartolomeo painting sold for \$21 million

LONDON (AFP) — A celebrated painting by Italian Renaissance artist Fra Bartolomeo has been sold by a British collector to the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu for \$14 million (\$21 million), art dealers Deborah Cagle Ltd. announced Friday. The painting, The Holy Family With The Infant St John, had an export licence withheld twice in a bid to keep it in Britain, but no British museums offered to buy it. However the J. Paul Getty Museum will lend the painting to the National Gallery in London for six months. The painting, considered one of the best by Fra Bartolomeo (1472-1517), dates from around 1509 and was bought in Florence in 1781 by the Third Lord Cowper who brought it to England where it was kept in the same family until this year.

Jagger, Gabriel attend Riviera party

CANNES, France (AFP) — Music stars Mick Jagger and Peter Gabriel were among guests at an exclusive party just along the Riviera from Cannes Saturday night, sources at the film festival said. Some 200 people were flown in by special jet from Los Angeles for the party at the Cap Ferrat Villa home of Microsoft deputy head Paul Allen, the sources said. Cannes jury chairman Francis Ford Coppola also made an appearance at the do, as did the Golden Palm-winning Coen brothers whose latest film Fargo is in competition at Cannes this year.

'Low-fat food may stunt children's growth'

LONDON (R) — Low-fat foods may stunt the growth of children and could mean they end up suffering from anaemia, learning difficulties, diabetes and heart disease, British researchers have warned. "We found that 80 per cent of mothers had the wrong intentions about what to feed infants aged under one," said Dr. Jackie Stordy, who headed a survey involving 1,000 mothers across England. "If parents start excluding particular food groups and put children on low-fat, high fibre diets, they also don't get enough micronutrients such as zinc and iron," she told the Sunday Telegraph. Dr. Stordy said many children were being fed on vegetables, fruit puree and low-fat yoghurts which were low in the sugars, fats and minerals required for energy and growth.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
الصحف الجordanية المستقلة المنشورة بالانجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية تأسست 1975

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Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 684311, 699634

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the

Jordan Times advertising department.

Cairo and beyond

WITH THE Egyptian-Israeli and Jordanian-Israeli peace treaties already in place, the tripartite summit in Cairo yesterday had to naturally focus on the Palestinian track as it enters its final stage and on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts with Israel as the target to pursue next. There is obviously a great deal at stake for the Palestinians as well as for the Arab World at this critical juncture in Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Both Cairo and Amman know only too well that failure in the third and final stretch of Palestinian-Israeli peace talks would have ripple effects on their own separate peace deals with the Jewish state. The mere fact that the Cairo summit was held and that another meeting is scheduled for Amman early next month means that preparations for what lies ahead are as important as what has been attained to date.

Of all the thorny issues that have yet to be negotiated the most difficult is no doubt Jerusalem. No wonder then that the final communiqué issued by the summiters voiced the concern of the entire Arab World, not to mention the Christian and Muslim worlds, over the future of East Jerusalem as a city whose importance transcends the vital interests of both Israel and Palestine. This avowed interest of both the Arab and Muslim worlds in the Holy City is aimed to serve notice on Israel that it would have to reckon with many in this world as it proceeds with the determination of the future status of Jerusalem. In other words, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) would not stand alone in negotiating the final status of Jerusalem, and Israel cannot count on isolating the Palestinians when negotiating the issue.

But the most important result of the summit appears to be that it succeeded in clearing the atmosphere in political relations among the three key Arab parties. For instance, there has been some misinterpretation of where Jordan stood on the Palestinian track and where the Palestinian leadership stood on the issue of cooperation and coordination with Jordan. His Majesty the King, in his series of meetings with President Mubarak recently, has consistently attempted to remove any and all lingering doubts about Jordan's policies in the region, but particularly over Palestine and Iraq. Whether other parties truly appreciated those efforts is not the most crucial point for now. What is important is that in the end, there was no better way for the Jordanians, the Egyptians and the Palestinians to forge a new strategic relationship than to meet jointly, with open hearts and minds, and hammer issues out. As we now know, the summit has succeeded in doing just that. And it had to because not only is the challenge in negotiations with Israel great but also because the enemies of peace could win the day otherwise.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i Sunday criticised the Ministry of Supply for borrowing \$100 million from the Islamic Bank to finance the importation of wheat and animal feed to be sold at subsidised prices to the farmers. Fahd Fakel said that the ministry, which earlier borrowed another \$60 million, is bound to increase the burden on the state's treasury and to confuse the Ministry of Finance's programmes because the borrowing is in excess of the budget assigned for the Ministry of Supply in the 1996 fiscal year. Borrowing, he said, should only be done to finance capital and income-generating projects, and not to increase consumption of subsidised commodities. The writer said that the wheat is to make bread which is sold at one third its real price and which is being consumed by the rich, the poor, the tourists, the non-Jordanian workers alike, which means that the subsidy does not reach the poor alone. He said that the new loans will constitute a burden on the Kingdom's treasury for years to come and it will have to be paid back in hard currency which the Kingdom needs mostly to finance essential development projects.

A WRITER for Al Dustour Sunday tackled the question of water scarcity in Jordan, noting that while certain areas of the capital receive non-stop supplies others have to buy their water for domestic use from water trucks. Many of those who bought their water from trucks discovered that it had a brownish colour and looked contaminated, or at least dirty, and unfit for human consumption, said Mohammad Kawash. While some areas in Amman continue to waste water on gardens and washing cars, other Amman residents are really thirsty and have been without water supply for weeks. The writer demanded an immediate solution to ensure the fair distribution of water, in accordance with the programme announced by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, noting that in the hot summer season people require more amounts of water than in other seasons. He said that until fresh sources of water are found fair distribution and rational consumption of precious water are badly required.

Human rights file

'We can no longer discuss one aspect of human rights only'

I was elected recently as a member of the U.N. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) which monitors the application of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). This came about after I had served two terms on the Human Rights Committee (HRC) which monitors the faithful enforcement of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Normally one would think nothing of this shift in focus if we can all agree that all human rights are complementary to one another. Yet this is exactly the point: if all human rights dimensions are interrelated, why then examine one set of human rights in isolation from the others.

During my tenure on the HRC, I and others have often found ourselves asking the question: How can civil and political rights be addressed outside the scope of economic, social and cultural rights? There is one classic example of the futility of deliberating on civil and political rights without immersing oneself into their wider context, i.e., other dimensions of human rights, especially the economic, social and cultural ones: Whenever the HRC members tackled fair trial and the obligation of state members of ICCPR to guarantee it to all people subject to their jurisdiction, many representatives of state parties whose reports were under scrutiny would respond by saying that without economic development they can ill afford the kind of court system that is capable of promoting and securing fair trials.

This frequently heard rebuttal, we must admit, is correct and sound. Poor nations cannot have a sophisticated judi-

cial system that can provide fair trial to their people, pure and simple. The same goes for the realisation of all aspects of the democratisation process, be it related to elections or freedom of thought.

There can be no doubt then about the organic link between economic development and the exercise of civil and political rights. On more than one occasion, human rights experts serving on the HRC found themselves dealing with economic, social and cultural rights anyway. Minority rights, for example, can never be addressed in isolation from cultural rights because they constitute the essence of their rights as a minority. The equal treatment of all individuals, irrespective of their economic or social status, is essentially an exercise in civil and political rights. There can be no escape from the conclusion then that all human rights are intertwined and can never be dealt with adequately except in their comprehensive context.

If this is the case, then why do we have a human rights expert group for civil and political rights and another for economic, social and cultural rights. The theory behind this division of labour goes back to the attempt to codify the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into two basic, legally binding, covenants back in the seventies.

It was thought then that civil and political rights must be pursued separately because they are rights that can be put into effect immediately, irrespective of the rate of economic developments. International consensus then was that notwithstanding the level of economic development, all states must respect and implement all civil and politi-

cal rights espoused in the ICCPR. The corollary of that early judgement was that economic, social and cultural rights need time to nurture and implement, unlike political rights which may and should be put into effect immediately, and therefore deserve a reexamination in a completely different setting!

After a quarter of a century of deep involvement in human rights on the international level, I have now reached the decision that this early diagnosis is no longer tenable and the international family must begin afresh a combined and concurrent examination of all aspects of human rights.

During the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, many developing nations made a desperate effort to link up all human rights dimensions organically, but failed to convince the rest of the groups attending the conference that all human rights must be dealt with simultaneously. Yet, all of us who took part in the Vienna forum, could not help but notice that the developing countries did succeed in causing a dent or two in the perspective of the developed world by impressing upon them, more than ever before, the inherent impossibility of discussing political and civil rights out of the wider context of human rights.

I feel now that I begin a new round of human rights endeavours under a different umbrella, that sooner rather than later all future international efforts to promote and protect human rights will have to be undertaken concurrently and not separately.

The Arab vote — a card to play wisely

By Farida Salfiti

FOR THE first time in the history of the Israeli elections, the Arab vote has the power to play a major role in determining the outcome of the premiership.

There are 450,000 Arab voters, representing some 10 per cent of the Israeli electorate. The Arab parties running for the Israeli Knesset have an important card in their hands; they should use it wisely and provide a united list of demands.

Mr. Peres needs the Arab vote to ensure for himself the premiership — they should not give it to him easily. They could either give him their conditional support, or withdraw it by encouraging their electorate to cast a blank ballot for the premiership, thus punishing him for his recent operation 'Grapes of Wrath' offensive against Lebanon, and for his oppressive treatment of Palestinians across the Green Line. This for Mr. Peres could mean the difference between winning or losing the premiership and could have serious ramifications for the fate of the peace process. But whether they choose to vote for Mr. Peres or not, the Arab voters should give their support to the Arab and not the Zionist parties. Only they have the sincerity and the interest to push for the rights of the Arab Israelis from within the political structure of the state.

Never before has an Israeli premier needed the Arab vote to this extent during an elections period. Moreover, the Arabs, who are entering the elections as two major political blocs, with two smaller insignificant ones, have the power to irrevocably change the political map of the Arabs

in Israel, and to influence the decision-making process of the Zionist entity.

Arab turnout during the last elections was estimated at 65 per cent, with 50 per cent of the vote cast in favour of the Zionist parties. It is expected that Arab turnout will be higher this time, optimistically placing it at 80 per cent, and the majority of the votes in favour of one of the two Arab blocs. If the Arabs vote for the Arab parties, rather than the Zionist parties, they are likely to effect Israeli politics in an unprecedented way, as they have the potential of securing for themselves somewhere between six and 9 seats in the Knesset.

During the last Israeli elections, of 1992, two groups were critical for ensuring the Labour Party's victory. The first was the Russian vote from recent Russian immigrants and the second was the Arab vote. This time around, the Labour Party has lost the Russian vote to a recently established right-wing Russian party. This leaves Mr. Peres with the floating vote and the Arab vote. The race between opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu and Mr. Peres is very slim. Recent polls indicate that the Jewish vote is slightly in favour of Mr. Netanyahu.

If Mr. Peres wins, it is predicted that it will be with a minority of Jewish votes. More than ever, Mr. Peres needs the Arabs. But subconsciously, the Arabs in Israel are already wondering whether it is worthwhile for them to make peace with a state whose people need the Arab votes to push them toward peace. In other words, a government that is a product of the Arab vote

is not ready for real peace, nor are the people of its country.

Unlike previous elections, and for the first time, the Israeli electorate will vote directly for the premier. The premier will no longer be the head of the list that gains the largest number of votes. This means the Arab voter can vote for the Arab parties, instead of the Zionist parties, while at the same time vote for Mr. Peres, whom some believe would serve their interest, and the interest of the peace process, far better than Mr. Netanyahu. This change means that they are free to vote for the Arab parties, without risking a Netanyahu victory.

"...they (the Arabs) should vote for the Arab parties, which will exert pressure on the Zionists, to secure their interests. Only in this way will the Arabs in Israel be able to lobby seriously for equality in the Israeli state, and for the rights of their brothers across the Green Line."

The Arabs are set to participate in the upcoming elections represented by two major coalition blocs. These two blocs, in addition to the Zionist parties, will be competing for the Arab vote to the Israeli Knesset. The first is the leftist-nationalist coalition between the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality and the National Democratic Assembly. The second is the United Arab List, a coalition between the rightist Islamists and Abdul Wahab Darawsheh's Arab

Democratic Party. Heading this list is Abdul Malek Dahamshah, the new Islamist pragmatist who is likely to be the first Islamist to enter the Knesset. The first bloc provides a more modern nationalist trend, while the second, through the Islamists, represents the traditional conservative trend.

The Islamist movement within Israel has decided to enter the Israeli elections for the first time, and thus break away from restricting itself mainly to local politics, i.e., working within the municipalities and associations. They are providing a moderate programme which has a wide popular appeal. Ironically, the

more pragmatist wing within the movement to opt to fight discrimination against them from within the Israeli political arena. Influencing a great deal this decision have been recent Israeli measures targeting the Islamists within Israel.

Closing down some of their centres and making it more difficult for the Islamists to conduct their activities has elicited accusations against Israel of terrorising the Islamists. There are those who have decided that such political action against them requires a political response — hence entering the electoral game at a national level.

On the nationalist-leftist level, the Israeli Arabs are witnessing the emergence of a new party, the National Democratic Assembly, which aims at achieving cultural autonomy for the Arabs of Israel and transforming Israel into a state for all its people — Jews and Palestinians alike — and not a state exclusively for the Jews, wherever they might be.

They are a force fighting against the Israelisation of the Arabs, and believe that the Palestinians in Israel need not be marginalised nor be situated at the far edge of their Palestinian and Arab Nation.

The Arab parties are currently involved in negotiations with Mr. Peres, presenting him with demands in return for the Arab vote. But unfortunately, they have not come together to posit these demands as a united front, decreasing their strength. These demands include concrete steps to alleviate the situation of the Palestinians, such as lifting the closure, complying with the Oslo accords by withdrawing from Hebron, the release of

Arab Israeli prisoners held since 1948 and the release of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas.

Since the Arab voter now has the choice between these two serious Arab parties, they should not vote for the Zionist parties, particularly since it will not affect the premiership. And they should not give their vote to Mr. Peres without asking for the concrete fulfilment of their demands. Empty promises are no substitute.

In the past, the Arabs tended to vote for one of the Zionist parties, the Labour Party in particular, in the hope that this left-leaning will take their interests at heart, and the interests of the Palestinians across the Green Line. This was a strategic error. The Arabs cannot rely on the Labour Party to fight for demands like the attainment of full equality and full citizenry and the dissolution of discriminatory practices which are intricately intertwined in the very fabric of the Israeli state.

They cannot hope to effect policy by working within the structures of the Zionist parties. Instead, they should vote for the Arab parties, which will exert pressure on the Zionists, to secure their interests. Only in this way will the Arabs in Israel be able to lobby seriously for equality in the Israeli state, and for the rights of their brothers across the Green Line.

The writer is managing editor of the Paris-based newsletter Issues, Perspective on Middle East and World Affairs. She contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Accord on fallen GIs helps U.S.-North Korea

By Shim Sung-Won
Reuters

SEOUL — A U.S.-North Korean agreement to recover the remains of American soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean war could provide a breakthrough in relations between the two foes, analysts in Seoul said.

After five days of talks in New York, U.S. and North Korean officials have agreed that Washington would pay \$2 million to Pyongyang for its past help in recovering the remains of the U.S. servicemen killed in action.

They also agreed to hold another meeting on the issue early next month.

"Both sides expect this technical meeting will result in joint recovery operations this year," the Pentagon said in the agreement statement.

"I believe the agreement is a breakthrough in boosting ties between the United States and North Korea and a step forward for the two countries' eventual normalisation," said Ko Tae-Woo, chief researcher at the Institute of North Korea Studies.

Ko said Pyongyang relied heavily on U.S. assistance in its bid to restore its sagging economy and maintain its Communist rule.

The New York agreement was a success in the

North's U.S. policy, he added.

"The upbeat mood following the agreement would help North Korea agree to four-nation talks," Mr. Ko told Reuters.

He was referring to last month's proposal by South Korean President Kim Young-Sam and U.S. President Bill Clinton that North Korea and China join their nations in talks aimed at securing a lasting peace between the two Koreas.

The two Koreas are still technically at war after the Korean conflict.

Analysts said the New York agreement also underlined Mr. Clinton's

bid to demonstrate his diplomatic achievements ahead of U.S. presidential election in November when he is due to seek another term.

"President Clinton hopes that the stars and stripes will be hoisted in the North at an early date," Mr. Ko said.

Yu Suk-Ryul, a North Korea-watcher at the Institute for Foreign Affairs and national security under the South Korean foreign ministry, said Washington's financial aid to North Korea could help the Stalinist state to open up gradually.

"The United States wants a political soft-landing in North Korea,"

he said.

Some analysts said North Korea would seek more concessions from the United States before agreeing to four-nation talks.

North Korea, listed by the United States as a terrorist state, has sought an easing of Washington's sanctions against it. The North also seeks aid to lessen its chronic food shortage, which has worsened since devastating floods last summer.

Seoul, Washington and Tokyo are due to hold working-level talks next week in South Korea's southern island of Cheju to discuss North Korea.

"A major issue at the

Cheju talks will be reaffirming the principle that any improvement in Washington and Tokyo's bilateral relations with North Korea will be closely connected to progress in relations between South and North Korea," Seoul's Deputy Foreign Minister Chung Tae-ik told reporters.

Japan's foreign ministry, in an annual review of the country's foreign policy released Friday, urged the North to improve relations with the South.

"North Korea must open itself wider, join the international community and improve its relations with South Korea," the review said.

Features

Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls grapples with tourist flood

By Ben Hirschler
Reuters

VICTORIA FALLS, Zimbabwe — The wall of water over 1.6 km wide tumbling into the Zambezi River gorges is as awesome today as when David Livingstone became the first European to see it in 1855.

But Victoria Falls, the world's biggest waterfall straddling the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia, is facing a growing onslaught from tourists whose numbers could triple in 10 years.

Conservationists fear the hundreds of thousands of visitors who flock to the falls each year could end up destroying the very wilderness they come to see.

The Zambezi upriver from the falls is already invaded by an armada of "sundowner" cruise boats each evening while small planes and helicopters vie for aerial views overhead.

Downriver, more and more intrepid travellers white-water raft through the gorges — and in between, the downright reckless queue for the world's highest bungee jump from the Victoria Falls bridge.

For the local economy, this is boom time.

Incoming flights and hotels are full, more so than ever this year as excellent summer rains restore the falls to their former glory after years of drought.

For the moment, the falls — known locally as mosi-oa-tunya or "the smoke that thunders" — remain relatively unscathed by the invasion.

The rain forest created by the plume of spray rising 300 metres into the air is still pristine, apart from the narrow concrete path along the edge of the waterfall. The surrounding game

offer vistas of unspoiled African bush.

But that could change with hotel groups planning to cash in on the resort's growing popularity by building another four hotels, including a large Sheraton that would protrude above the tree line.

At present the town of Victoria Falls has eight hotels plus three under construction. There are five on the Zambian side.

In an effort to balance the needs of tourism and conservation, the governments of Zimbabwe and Zambia commissioned a study from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) into future development of the area.

But the report, presented at the end of March, has only fuelled controversy after Zimbabwe rejected a key recommendation for a moratorium on new projects pending a detailed master plan for the area.

Harare argued it was not possible to suspend all projects since such a plan would take a long time to put together.

However, Deputy Environment and Tourism Minister Chindori Chininga said the government had recommended that private companies who plan to build so far away from the world heritage site, a 12 square km area that includes the rain forest.

The Zambezi Society Conservation Group said it was disappointed by the rejection of the moratorium call.

"We believe it is essential that the Victoria Falls area retains the wilderness quality that people have come to Africa to experience," it said.

The IUCN report concluded that further development in the area would inevitably have a significant

environmental impact.

"If tourism increases two or three times in the next 10 years, which is the scenario we are talking about, it is going to be necessary to put limits on use of the area," said IUCN programme officer Jan Sugl.

"Most of the activities that tourists engage in — like riverboat rides, visits to rain forest, flights over the falls — will have to be limited."

Victoria Falls town will also feel the strain. Local infrastructure, including sewerage and housing for locals working in the tourist industry, is already starting to creak.

"There will be a very serious strain on the infrastructure of Victoria Falls town. It is already running close to capacity levels," Mr. Sugl said.

At present some 300,000 visitors stay at Victoria Falls each year, the bulk of them South Africans flocking to the country in increasing numbers following better relations between the two states thanks to the collapse of apartheid.

Across the river on the Zambian side, Chief Mukuni watches developments with concern. His Leya people have lived in the falls area since the 1600s but situated their village 10 km from the waterfall, believing it to be a sacred place.

He is saddened by development in the area but at the same time appreciates the hard currency the visitors bring when they come to his village to buy carvings.

"Tourism is the number one industry," he said. "But tourists come for the wilderness. We mustn't kill the goose that lays the golden egg."

export two \$2 billion worth of oil every six months in return for food and medicine.

Iraqi denies rises

The Iraqi dinar traded at 925 to the dollar on the streets of Baghdad Sunday, strengthening from 950 to the dollar the day before, traders said.

The currency gained after Iraqi negotiator Abdul Amir Al Anbari on Saturday saw a slight improvement in his oil-for-food talks at the United Nations, after an intervention by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali.

Israel unacceptable excuses to justify its massacre

In Canada, the newspaper said. "Can the American administration tell us if it is possible to believe in a just and durable peace in the Middle East when the Western liberal mindset considers Arabs as worthless, irrelevant people," it added.

Al Riyadh newspaper said: "If Israel attacks sacks Fifth Avenue (department store) in New York and kills American children, the United States will themselves use their right of veto to block any condemnation of Israel."

5 Israeli soldiers wounded

(Continued from page 1)

the "security zone" in South Lebanon, and Israel has the right to defend itself.

Both sides have agreed not to attack civilian targets. The Israeli air raids were the first since the ceasefire went into effect and the Jewish state's overall military operation has been its most

intense since the truce.

Two Israeli fighters fired nine missiles in three raids over Iqim Al Tufah region, which was also pounded by at least 100 rounds of Israeli artillery, Lebanese police said.

Israeli helicopter gunships also flew over the region, they added.

A Lebanese police spokes-

man said that the bombing lasted for about four hours, with the last shell falling at about 12:15 p.m. (0915 GMT).

"The Israeli planes, which repeatedly flew over the bombed area, were gone by about noon," he added.

A spokesman for Hizbollah said that the Israeli attacks caused no casualties among its members.

Hizbollah, which is armed, financed and trained by Iran,

claimed four Israelis were killed. But the security sources said they had no reports of fatalities.

The Israeli army said its troops were attacked twice in the zone's eastern sector. A communiqué reported three officers and two soldiers wounded, but made no mention of a bomb ambush.

It noted that one officer was wounded and in serious condition after an Israeli patrol was hit by anti-tank rockets. The other Israelis were wounded when an outpost came under mortar fire.

Israeli government spokesman Uri Dromi said Israel will abide by the April 27 ceasefire.

"But we ... have to defend our forces and we will fight back and we will take all the action necessary to make sure that Hizbollah does not succeed," Dromi told the Associated Press.

Hizbollah spearheads a guerrilla campaign to drive out the 1,200 Israeli soldiers and their surrogate militia, the 2,500-strong South Lebanon Army, who garrison the occupied enclave.

Eco-theme park aims to change image of British Greens

By Helen Smith
Reuters

CONISBROUGH, England — A spectacular environmental theme park built on the remains of two coalmines aims to change the image of the Green movement in Britain.

The 120 million pound (\$185 million) earth centre is to be opened in the year 2,000 as one of Britain's biggest tributes to the new millennium.

It will combine joyrides, exhibitions and a research centre on a 141.6-hectare site where conisbrough and Denaby main coalmines once stood in the northern county of Yorkshire.

Its flamboyant centerpiece will be "the ark," a huge butterfly-shaped canopy of rainbow-coloured solar panels housing many of the rides and galleries.

The driving force behind the scheme is Jonathan Smales, a former financial director of the environmental group, greenpeace, and something of a rebel in the Green movement.

Mr. Smales's mission is to convince pampered Britons not only of the necessity of conserving the environment, but that this need not involve too many sacrifices.

"There is nothing freaky or eccentric about what we are doing here," said Mr. Smales in his office, a portable cabin in the muddy wastes that will become the earth centre.

Mr. Smales's wire-rimmed glasses and casual clothes mark him out as an environmentalist rather than a businessman. He recognises that many of the precious tenets of the green movement repel outsiders.

"I think the green movement's principal failing is that it has not found a way to help people visualise what a greener future will be," he said.

The earth centre aims to do just that. Its sheer spectacle is expected to draw 2.5 million visitors a year. Among the attractions will be a ride for

children that will take them through a simulated Antarctica complete with freezing winds and life-size films of diving whales.

Another will be a fast-moving lift transporting visitors to simulations of the stratosphere or the ocean floor, or to examine the canopy of a tropical rain forest.

Even the site's organic waste will be used to dramatic effect in huge glass tanks, where visitors will be able to see it being converted into bright red or green algae. The algae will be used for energy or fed to fish and animals in experimental farms on the site.

The centre will include a research area where visitors can see the latest in environmentally friendly technology. Companies will have facilities to develop green products and techniques.

There is already a vineyard — the poor soil and south facing slope are said to be ideal for wine grow-

ing and the first bottles of Chateau Ivanhoe are expected to be ready in 1997.

Mr. Smales says the centre will demonstrate that environmentally friendly living need not be as painful as people imagine. "For example, people think about the bicycle as being hard work, where you get tired and sweaty, but innovations in engineering mean they are nothing like that any more," he said.

In a typical example of Mr. Smales's pragmatic environmentalism, animals bred at the centre's farms will turn up later on the menus of its cafes and restaurants.

"We're not suggesting everyone becomes vegetarian. We're saying if you want to eat meat there are ways and means of farming animals that aren't so cruel," said Mr. Smales.

His approach has helped win the support, and financial backing, of many of Britain's biggest companies as well as 50 million pounds (\$77

million) from the government's millennium fund, using proceeds from the national lottery.

The centre has been designed by award-winning architects, artists and designers and advertising giant saatchi and saatchi has been appointed to promote it.

Mr. Smales sees the decision to build the centre in the midst of a community in decline since the closure of the coalmines a decade ago as central to its philosophy. He expects it to create 2,000 jobs in the next 10 years.

"It is all about renewal," he says. The arrival of the earth centre marks a strange twist in the history of the Deane valley. Before it was overtaken by the machinery and detritus of coalmining, the scottish novelist Sir Walter Scott in 1806 described it "as one of the most striking and beautiful scenes in England."

Scott based his novel "Ivanhoe" here and he made Conisbrough Castle, which still stands on the valley's flank, the home of one of his characters, Hamelin Plantagenet.

Some of the valley's former beauty has survived and the earth centre will incorporate part of the ancient woodland where the folk hero Robin Hood once reigned, according to legend.

The centre has not been universally welcomed. Environmentalists convinced that small is beautiful have attacked its scale and fears have been raised about the amount of traffic it will bring to south Yorkshire's narrow, and often badly worn, roads.

Mr. Smales's defence is that the benefits outweigh the costs. "No-one's ever happy as an environmentalist when a development brings traffic on the scale that we require... But if people aren't driving here, they don't stay at home and grow vegetables organically in their back garden."

Summit reaffirms objective

(Continued from page 1)

Tehran on Saturday. "Our meeting here is aimed at supporting the Palestinian cause... their meeting has other motives," Mr. Mubarak said without elaboration.

The main focus of the Cairo summit was, the three leaders said, the Palestinian issue and ways and means of enhancing and developing tri-

lateral cooperation to give support to Palestinians in achieving their rights in the final status negotiations on Jerusalem, borders, refugees, Israeli settlements and the

legal status of the territories.

The three leaders called in their joint statement on Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories and denounced the expansionist policies of some countries they did not name. They said they wanted real peace and real commitment to the national rights of the Palestinian people.

"Without this any talk about peace would be void of any content," the statement said.

Netanyahu

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Peres's policy of confiscating Palestinian town has resulted in angry protests by Palestinians.

Settler groups in the West Bank, who support Likud and other right-wing parties, have announced plans to build 12 new settlements and bring thousands of Israelis to the West Bank, where Israel still controls 73 per cent of the land. Some predict a Jewish population of a half million by the year 2000, up from 144,000 today.

The future of the Jewish settlements is one of the most explosive issues in the Israeli-Palestinian talks on a final settlement, which began earlier this month.

Settlements are also a subject of conflict with the U.S. government, which opposes new settlement building and has withheld some loan guarantees because of settlement construction near Jerusalem.

There are nearly 140 Jewish settlements interspersed among Palestinian autonomous areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which has an Arab population of more than 2 million.

On the issue of Jerusalem's future, however, Mr. Netanyahu said a right-wing Likud government would be uncompromising and would oppose attempts to set up Palestinian self-rule in the city, where 400,000 Jews live with 150,000 Palestinians.

He said Likud would close down Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) offices in the city, including the headquarters known as the Orient House.

"Our position is closing down the Orient House and the PLO offices because it is untenable that in the capital of any city you'd have a set of offices of a foreign government operating as a separate capital," he asserted.

YSP denies

(Continued from page 12)

The kidnappers are demanding the authorities return a house in Aden which the YSP gave in 1986 to Mr. Sherif under the nationalisation campaign conducted at the time in the former South Yemen.

A court has ordered that the home be returned to the original owner.

A coalition of seven opposition parties, including the YSP, on Sunday published a statement condemning the kidnapping and called on the authorities to release the young man who is held in the Dana area, 80 kilometres southeast of the capital.

A statement from the coalition said the kidnappers "should be punished." The authorities have arrested dozens of Khawlane tribesmen to pressure the kidnappers.

Meanwhile, deputies and tribal leaders were attempting to make contact with the kidnappers.

Yemen

Iraq wants big power veto

(Continued from page 1)

international circumstances are favourable for lifting the embargo," it said.

Al Jumhuriyah proposed that the U.N. "define point by point what is demanded of Iraq, which would allow a speeding up of cooperation" with the United Nations, especially in regard to meeting disarmament requirements.

"Our people can no longer forgive and cannot accept justifications," it said. "If the embargo is lifted without

your help, do not expect the Iraqi people who have already lost one million and a quarter people to smile at you," it told the three countries.

Paris, Moscow and Beijing favour easing sanctions while Washington and London have taken a harder line.

Baghdad has accused the United States and Britain of blocking an agreement with the U.N. over Resolution 986, which would allow it to

U.S. losing 'honest' image

(Continued from page 12)

tinues to use its political capital to keep labour in power, there could be nothing left for future negotiations," he said. "Washington's credibility could be greatly diminished in the eyes of many Arabs."

Mr. Moberly said, however, that no other country has the political power or leverage with Israel required to broker the peace process.

"Whether the United States is a fair broker or not,

there are really no other countries who can fill that role," he said.

Saudi newspapers issued a rare personal rebuke of U.S. President Bill Clinton on Sunday.

"U.S. administrations, whether they are Republican or Democrat, have always aligned themselves with Israel, and President Clinton has proved it," according to Al Yom view.

Mr. Clinton "has given

Israel, PLO agreed to delay

(Continued from page 1)

with both Israeli and Palestinian representatives before entering Hebron.

Haaretz said an agreement on a redeployment timetable to be completed after the election was reached in talks between Israeli negotiator Uri Savir and his Palestinian counterpart Mahmoud Abbas.

Mr. Savir and Mr. Abbas are also leading the delegations in talks on a permanent peace agreement between the sides.

A leaflet urging Palestinians in East Jerusalem to organise to "regain" Jerusalem heralds a new Palestinian uprising, Israel's opposition Likud Party meanwhile claimed.

The leaflet, issued last week in Jerusalem, was headlined "they who kindled the infitah can restore Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem."

"Jerusalem will not be regained only by negotiations," the leaflet "the masses are the most important factor for

victory."

Haatem Abdul Qader, a legislator in the Palestinian council from Jerusalem who helped write the leaflet, said it was not a call for a new uprising.

"Our activities are peaceful," he said Sunday. "We want to mobilise the masses, to make them aware of the importance of Jerusalem."

But Likud posters that went up Sunday in response to the leaflet announced "infithah in Jerusalem" in bold black and red letters.

"This is how it started in the territories," the posters said. "We need to replace Peres before he gives in."

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AMERICAN
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Amman International Fair Hall - Marj Al-Hamam May 12-17 1996
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Live Music entertainment: May 12-17, Music Variation from 6:00-8:00pm and Flamenco from 8:00-10:00pm
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World Bank : Unemployment makes Palestinian situation 'unsustainable'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Widespread unemployment in the Palestinian territories makes the situation there "clearly unsustainable," Olin Knudsen, World Bank country manager for the West Bank and Gaza, said. Unemployment and the expanding budget deficit in the territories will be at the top of the agenda at a meeting next month of

donor nations, Mr. Knudsen told reporters.

Since Israel sealed off the territories following a rash of anti-Israeli suicide bombs in February and March, the jobless rate skyrocketed from 30 per cent to close to 70 per cent and has led to the collapse of the fledgling Palestinian economy, Mr. Knudsen said.

"(The) situation has become clearly unsustainable," he said.

In addition, aid has been slow in coming, leaving a gaping budget deficit. Mr. Knudsen added. Of \$500 million promised by donor countries for 1996, only \$27 million has been disbursed, he said.

The European Union

announced Thursday that it would unblock some \$20 million and the U.S. Congress is scheduled to vote on an additional \$10 million.

At the June technical meeting of donor countries, Mr. Knudsen said the World Bank would ask for new pledges of aid for the Palestinian territories.

Moroccan economy to rebound in 1996, minister says

RABAT (R) — Morocco, recovering from a devastating drought which ravaged its agriculture-driven economy, expects more than nine per cent growth in 1996, Finance Minister Mohammed Kabbaj said Saturday.

Presenting his 1996/97 draft budget to the 333-seat parliament, he said the government plans to accelerate the privatisation programme.

Mr. Kabbaj said budgetary belt tightening was planned to wipe out the budget deficit within three years.

The deficit was 5.0 per cent of GDP in 1995, officials said.

Mr. Kabbaj expects inflation to fall to 4.5 per cent in 1996 from 6.1 per cent in 1995.

Mr. Kabbaj said "the government will accelerate implementation of the privatisation programme by simplification of the administrative rules."

Morocco, which embarked on a major liberalisation programme in November 1993, plans to privatise 114 state-owned enterprises by the end of 1998.

Funds from the privatisation programme are expected to rise 42.8 per cent to 5.0 billion dirhams in 1996 compared with the previous year.

The minister evoked what the government calls "the social priority programme", including the creation of thousands of jobs through intensive labour-projects worth 2.5 billion dirhams in rural areas.

Mr. Kabbaj announced a total budget of 117.1 billion dirhams for the period of July 1996-June 1997.

Iran, Kazakhstan sign oil deal

TEHRAN (R) — Kazakhstan has signed a deal in Tehran to export crude oil to Iran on an exchange basis, Tehran radio said.

"Kazakhstan's oil will be transferred to Iran on the Caspian Sea coast and Iran will produce its equivalent crude in the Gulf."

for export to international markets," the radio said.

It said Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev signed an agreement on "laying the pipeline to carry Kazakhstan's crude through Iranian territory."

"Kazakhstan's president considered Iran the most suitable route for export of its oil," it added.

The radio did not mention a price tag for the deal or the amount of crude that would be exported but earlier estimates put the volume at between two to five million tonnes of crude oil per year.

Mr. Rafsanjani said "Iran would refine the Kazakh oil received at the Caspian Sea at Tehran's refinery and will deliver it at the Gulf," adding that "Iran would gain from its added value."

The pact will give the land-locked Central Asian republic some badly needed export capacity.

"Kazakhstan is ready to cooperate bilaterally with Iran and the Turkmenistan republic on building an oil

pipeline in Iran," state-run television quoted Mr. Nazarbayev as saying.

Tehran, resisting a campaign by Washington to isolate it politically and economically, has sought to boost its ties with its Central Asian neighbours and other countries.

Iran, regarded by the U.S. as an outlaw state, is not seen as a viable candidate for a pipeline route for Central Asian exports.

But Kazakhstan views Iran as an outlet for so-called "early oil" until other routes are opened.

Kazakhstan's deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Gizatov said in April that the deal had been reached and the only outstanding issue concerned transit tariffs.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh had said the best solution for northern neighbours Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan which have no easy access to world markets was for them to swap their crude for Iran's.

The swaps envisage their selling Iranian oil — which has easy coastal access — while Iran consumes their crude, presumably at a discount rate to make it worth Tehran's while.

It could save their each building expensive pipelines to the coast.

U.S. Senate panel okays bill on Gaza—West Bank free trade

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Senate Finance Committee has approved legislation to allow goods produced in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and "qualifying industrial zones" in Israel, Jordan and Egypt to enter the United States under provisions equal to those of the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement.

Committee action on this legislation was tied to legislation to implement an international agreement to end shipbuilding subsidies.

That agreement, negotiated in the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), was signed in December 1994 by the most important shipbuilding nations — the United States, the European Union, Japan, South Korea and Norway.

The committee also approved on May 8 the reauthorisation of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), a programme that allows duty-free entry for many imports from most developing countries, retroactively to its expiration in July 1995.

The House passed a West Bank-Gaza bill in April 1996. If the Senate passed the West Bank-Gaza bill with the shipbuilding subsidy and GSP provisions added by the Senate Finance Committee, however, the bill would require at least reconsideration in the House and, more likely, reconsideration by a House committee and a Senate-House conference.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman William Roth cited the crucial importance for fast passage of the OECD shipbuilding agreement before a June 15 deadline. "It took almost six years to negotiate this agreement, which will substantially reduce foreign shipbuilding subsidies," Mr. Roth said.

The shipbuilding agreement will cover about 80 per cent of the world's shipbuilding capacity. Its four main provisions are:

— Elimination of virtually all shipbuilding subsidies granted either directly to shipbuilders or indirectly through ship operators.

— An "injurious-pricing" code modelled on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) antidumping code that allows signatories to fine foreign shipyards that sell ships at unfairly low (or dumped) prices.

— A set of rules for how governments will finance domestic and exported ship sales.

— And binding dispute-settlement procedures in the OECD.

The agreement would enter into force 30 days after the June 15 deadline. Of the five agreement signatories, the United States and Japan have not yet completed the steps to meet the deadline.

Some of the other parties have threatened to withdraw from the agreement if the United States fails to implement it by June 15, having already missed an earlier January deadline.

The GSP legislation would renew the programme granting duty-free access for more than 4,400 products from designated developing countries, but would make some changes. One change is to decrease the per capita gross national product (GNP) threshold for when a country is no longer eligible for the preferential

programme to \$8,600 from \$11,800. Also reduced would be the "competitive needs limits" to \$75 million beginning in 1996, with a standard annual increase of \$5 million. Countries with exports exceeding the competitive need limit in a particular product would not be able to export the excess amount of that product duty-free to the United States.

The new legislation should also make more clear the extent of the president's authority to designate the addition of articles imported from "least-developed developing countries" as GSP eligible. It also will exclude products from consideration for duty free eligibility for three years under the GSP programme if the products have formally denied GSP status.

Retroactive GSP reauthorisation to July 31, 1995, should allow importers to request refund of some of the higher duties already paid.

The legislation on Gaza and the West Bank was in part made necessary by the implementation of the 1995 Israel-Palestinian Liberation Organisation agreement, which began the transfer of territories to the control of Palestinian authorities. After the transfer, goods produced in these areas were no longer marked as products of Israel and therefore were no longer eligible for the preferential

treatment granted goods under the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement.

The legislation would give the president authority to modify or eliminate any duty on any goods produced in or imported from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or "a qualifying industrial zone." These "qualifying" zones will be areas, designated by the president, in Israel and Jordan, or Israel and Egypt, which local authorities set up when local authorities set up enclaves where merchandise can enter without payment of duty or excise tax.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MAY 13, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be poised even though today you may not be able to handle outside affairs as you have planned for some reason. Later tonight is a good time for you to be in the company of your loved ones and close friends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You may be undecided whether to handle business or personal affairs today, so schedule your time wisely and you can handle both in a most efficient manner. Later tonight you can enjoy yourself with your loved ones.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you don't plan your time wisely today, you may lose out in the business world and also in personal matters. This evening you can have a wonderful time out on the town with some good friends.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are torn between new interests today and completing the investigative tasks you have in mind, so try to compromise in your efforts. This evening will be highly productive if you consult with a knowledgeable person.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't involve yourself in a disagreement today between a logical-minded friend and a person in business, for you could become the centre of their difficulty. Tonight will be good for entertaining in your home.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) An argumentative situation today may arise between an acquiring fellow associate and a bigwig, so don't get in the middle of the situation or you could regret it. Tonight spend some quality with your loved ones.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Plan your time wisely today since you have many duties ahead of you and you need to go after important information. Use good judgement in whatever business decisions you must undertake, so that you can be successful.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You want to have good time today, however don't involve yourself in anything too expensive for you. Later tonight you can be in the company of those who have the ability to suggest some methods for success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You mate and partner do not get along at all today, so keep them separate to avoid some major confrontation. Plan your time wisely tonight to take advantage of any beneficial situation which may come in your direction.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You find that fellow associates and outside contacts have varied viewpoints today so don't try any reconciliation or you will lose out. Later tonight you can have good times with some close friends out on the town.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are torn today between economising and going out for an expensive pleasure spree, so find a happy medium. Later tonight you can enjoy yourself with being in the company of some good close friends.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your family has a different view from your own today, so do not disagree. Do something this evening about improving your appearance so that those in authority will see you as very successful.

Birthstone of May: Emerald

— Citrine

THE Daily Crossword by Roger Jurgovan

ACROSS

1 Mood

5 Beat a dead horse

9 Bones

13 Nasty

14 Lulu

15 Amerinds

16 Rusty

18 Clock sound

19 Trotsky

20 Under the weather

22 Sandy's call

23 Fortify

24 Bungler

25 Posture

27 Sprays

32 Egyptian deity

34 Side

35 Valved brass instrument

36 Exude

37 Heaths

38 Rat —

39 — Domini

40 Charged particles

41 Put away

42 Dangers

44 Head of a kitchen staff

45 Owed

46 Insidious

47 Hellenic letter

50 Inappropriate

55 Watery

56 Lhasa —

57 On the frtz

59 Luminary

60 Overwhelm with flattery

61 Arctic dog

62 Rocky crags

63 Prepares the keg

64 Pandant works

DOWN

1 More honest

2 Like some books

3 Night light

4 Imp

5 Boning

6 Med. subj.

7 Property taken back

8 Shapes beforehand

9 Away from home, at times

10 Commotion

11 Cult

12 Inquires

13 Soft drink

17 Hot under the collar

21 — Paulo

23 Horse kin

26 Alfresco

27 Ages

28 All —

29 Untimely

30 Angle iron

31 Satisfy

32 Pile

33 Sports stadium

34 Stodge

37 Highway marker

41 Retiring

43 — Wiedersehen

44 Staff symbol

46 Freight boats

48 Rubes

50 Oven for drying hops

51 Scheming

52 Ruler

53 Colorful moth

54 On

55 Dull report

58 "What person?"

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



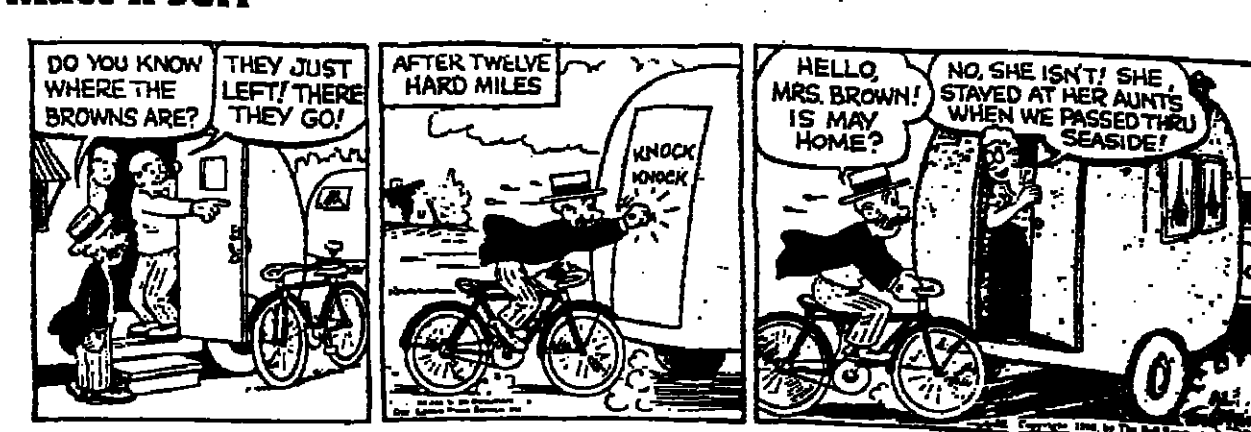
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Saudi eyes raw sugar market

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is exploring sources for raw sugar to supply its new refinery, which is to partly meet local demand and the need for imports when it comes on stream in early 1997, officials said Monday.

One official said the first cargoes were likely to be about 60,000 tonnes and sourced from Australia for the \$119 million plant's December commissioning.

Kamal Shukri, assistant project director at United Sugar Company of Saudi Arabia, said the plant was also looking at tapping Brazil, Cuba, Thailand and South Africa for raw supplies to feed its 500,000 tonnes annual capacity plant.

Another source could be India if there were sufficient supplies, he told Reuters by telephone from Jeddah.

"In 1997, the need will be for 450,000 tonnes," he said. "We are looking at the whole market and possible sources for raw."

He declined to give further details, but said the company was looking at a range of factors to make a decision such as purity, price and reliability. "It depends on the available price and capacity of the country to provide the quality we are looking for," he said.

Jordan ponders reservations for Petra

By Rana Sabbagh

Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan may require tourists to book ahead to visit the ancient rock city of Petra because of the flood of sightseers since Jordan made peace with Israel in 1994.

Officials said Sunday that the numbers — nearly double the planned capacity — were overwhelming the site's infrastructure and services and threatening the archaeological treasures.

"We are considering the introduction of a special reservation system for entry to Petra, especially during peak periods," Tourism Minister Saleh Irsheidat told Reuters.

"It is contemplated that tourists intending to visit would be required to make reservations in advance, while the length of their stay in Jordan would be an important factor in securing a reservation," he said.

The emphasis on length of stay reflects Jordan's concern at the growing number of tourists who arrive from Israel on day trips, taking up space at the 2,000-year-old city of Petra but spending little.

Despite the boom in tourist numbers since the treaty, average nights spent in Jordan dropped to 3.7 in 1995 from 5.1 in 1989, officials said.

Jordanian officials are now pressing Israel to guarantee that groups from Israel spend at least two nights in the Kingdom, officials said.

Though tourism has emerged as the main gainer from peace, local tour operators fear Israel is the real winner. They say Israel is using Jordanian sites like Petra and the Greco-Roman city of Jerash to lure guests.

"Many are now coming over into Petra specifically, for half a day, bringing their own bottles of water and sandwiches... They do not spend a penny and use our infrastructure, sewage and water system," said a tour organiser.

Jordan's move last year to hike fees and limit non-resident tourists at Petra to 2,500 per day has been ineffective.

officials said. A U.S. firm is now evaluating the policy.

The problem increased when Israeli cars and buses began entering Jordan last month under the treaty, creating havoc on the site's limited parking spaces.

"Now we even have a capacity problem there," Mr. Irsheidat said.

Several times in the past two weeks, daily visits exceeded 4,000. Some 67,313 visitors, mainly foreign tourists, entered Petra in April.

Petra, Jordan's best-known tourist attraction, was a dream to Israelis before the treaty. In the decades before peace, some were caught trying to sneak to Petra over the desert.

DAILY BUSINESS

A review of news from the Arabic press

Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) posts JD 1.95m net profit despite writing off JD 5.82 million of bad debts

★ ★ THE ARAB Banking Corporation (Jordan) wrote off JD 5.82 million of "irregular" or bad loans last year and paid JD 520,900 to settle income tax of past years but still managed to overcome a "book" loss of JD 3.88 million and to post a net profit of JD 1.95 million. This result was achieved by taking into consideration that the bank had a JD 5.81 million reserve for doubtful assets and had earned a net income of JD 4.6 million from the difference between interest and commission earned (JD 13.0 million) and interest and commission paid (JD 8.4 million). Also to be noted were the profit of JD 291,000 (JD 341,000 in 1994), generated by the bank's portfolio of securities, and the JD 1.3 million in foreign exchange and other income. According to the annual report, the bank's profit before the tax and the write off of bad debt amounted to JD 2.45 million, 5.7 per cent higher than the 1994 figure.

Upon the recommendation of the board of directors, the general assembly approved to retain the net profit to consolidate the shareholders equity in preparation to raise the bank's capital to JD 20 million. Such a process, to be taken in case the government cancels the capitalisation tax, would entail giving shareholders a free half share bonus and capitalising JD 5 million of the voluntary reserve and floating five million shares for private subscription to the shareholders.

Other main financial results of the bank during 1995 were:

- Increasing total assets by 11 per cent to JD 171.2 million;
- Boosting public deposits by 13.6 per cent to JD 122 million;
- Total deposits including those of banks and other financial institutions rose from JD 114.2 million to JD 138.3 million;
- Loans portfolio grew by 9.1 per cent from JD 70.3 million to JD 76.7 million.

Deputy Board Chairman and General Manager Jawad Hadid told the general assembly that the bank has obtained a licence from the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to open a branch and a regional headquarter in Ramallah as a first step towards more expansion in the Palestinian territories in the future (Al Aswaq + Al Ra'i + Al Dustour).

Tourism among China's fastest growing industries

BEIJING (R) — Chinese tourism officials have said development of the industry was rapidly outstripping economic growth as travellers stream in to see the Great Wall, go skiing and clear garbage from the slopes of Mount Everest.

"China is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of tourism resources," Sun Gang, vice-chairman of the National Tourism Administration, told Reuters in an interview.

He said growth of the tourism industry was racing ahead of gross domestic product (GDP) and was expected to outpace it by a large margin until at least the turn of the century.

"I think the speed of tourism development is certain to overtake that of the national economy," he said.

While GDP was forecast to grow at a healthy 8.0 per cent a year through to 2000, Mr. Sun said he expected the tourism industry to clock growth of 11 to 13 per cent a year over the same period.

Earnings from tourism, both domestic and international, were expected to account for 5.0 per cent of GDP, or 350 billion yuan (\$41 billion) a year by the end of the century and to soar to 1.34 trillion (\$161 billion) a year — or 8.0 per cent of GDP — by 2010, Mr. Sun said.

A combination of higher living standards along with the development of more hotels and opening of new tourist destinations and varieties of packages on offer to international travellers could help to ensure that goal, he said.

China recorded 46.39 million tourist visits in 1995 — although the vast majority were by overseas Chinese from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau visiting relatives — generating revenues of \$8.73 billion.

Foreign tourists made 5.89 million trips to China last year, up 13.6 per cent from 1994 while trips by domestic tourists numbered an extraordinary 629 million — or about half the population — in 1995, Mr. Sun said.

Enormous potential lay with increasingly rich local Chinese who since last May 1 have enjoyed a two-day weekend which led to soaring trips and tourism receipts, Mr. Sun said.

Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (May 6 - May 10, 1996)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit appreciated moderately against the yen as well as the mark, while depreciating marginally against sterling. It ended the week 0.38 per cent and 0.28 per cent higher against the yen and the mark respectively, and 0.82 per cent lower against sterling.

The U.S. unit appreciated against sterling and the mark Monday, but depreciated marginally against the yen. The depreciation of the dollar was mainly attributed to the yen regaining its upward trend against the mark. The dollar failed to appreciate further, however, despite the very high growth rate of first quarter GDP in the U.S., calculated at 2.8 per cent which triggered expectations that the Federal Reserve might tighten its monetary policy in the near future.

The dollar rose marginally against the yen and sterling Tuesday, while depreciating against the mark. The dollar dropped upon comments by German bankers that the mark is expected to strengthen soon. In addition, the dollar came under pressure against the mark due to mark buying against the yen and other European currencies. The mark received support against the other European currencies after the Bank of Spain as well as Sweden's Riksbank decreased key money market rates, while the Bundesbank left its repo rate unchanged at 3.30 per cent.

The dollar depreciated noticeably against the mark and sterling Wednesday, and marginally against the yen. Analysts indicated that the dollar went down due to the continued upward trend of the mark. The German unit was further supported by expectations that Germany might not meet the EMU criteria and therefore not qualify to join EMU by the year 1999, giving the mark an upward push against the dollar and the other major currencies.

The U.S. unit appreciated against the mark and sterling Thursday, whereas it depreciated against the yen. On the other hand, the dollar appreciated against the other major currencies, at the end of the week, upon the release of the U.S. producer price index (PPI), which showed a moderate overall growth of 0.4 per cent in April. The positive results of the PPI fed into higher U.S. stock and bond prices, and reflected positively on the dollar's exchange rates. In addition, comments by the U.S. treasury secretary lent further support to the dollar. The treasury secretary was reported to have said that the Clinton Administration will not revert to a weak dollar policy as a tool in trade disputes with Japan and China.

The U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.5296 marks, 105.49 yen and at \$1.5204 to the pound.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
UNOFFICIAL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 12/05/1996											
PART 12 MONTHS COMPANY'S NAME P / M DIV. NO. OF SHARES NO. OF SHARES VALUE OPEN PRICE CLOSE PRICE CHANGES											
250.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	12.3	1.38	8	860	192640	224.00	224.00	-	-
4.800	4.180	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	12.3	1.38	8	4800	21999	4.45	4.40	-0.05	-
4.740	4.250	CABOT AMMAN BANK	11.1	2.17	3	1235	5681	4.70	4.50	-0.20	-
3.090	2.600	JOR. KAWATY BANK	20.5	0.00	5	670	1907	2.88	2.83	-0.05	-
1.920	1.920	JOR. GUZL BANK	20.5	0.00	10	10137	10440	1.04	1.03	-0.01	-
4.580	2.550	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	21.4	0.00	1	250	600	2.53	2.40	-0.13	-
4.450	2.210	THE BUSINESS BK.	10.3	0.00	1	250	538	2.21	2.15	-0.06	-
4.450	3.300	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	19.1	0.00	8	2068	7315	3.54	3.54	-	-
4.240	3.420	RETAIL BANK (BETHNA)	1.6	5.85	6	500	1402	2.55	2.56	+0.01	-
1.350	1.350	AMMAN BANK INV.	0	0.00	42	38050	22832	1.45	1.43	-0.02	-
1.920	1.070	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	0	0.00	5	2863	3482	1.24	1.21	-0.03	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 178.50 CHGS: -0.18 100 76783 268204											
2.970	1.900	ROYAL LAND INSUR.	6.3	0.00	1	50000	108000	3.00	2.10	-0.90	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 123.71 CHGS: +0.18 1 50000 108000											
1.950	1.850	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.2	7.45	21	12818	20555	1.61	1.61	-	-
7.100	6.450	VEHICLE OWNERS FID.	15.1	5.97	1	150	1005	6.95	6.70	-0.25	-
5.000	4.800	ARAB INTEL. MORTG.	17.0	3.00	2	700	3500	5.00	5.00	-	-
3.050	2.810	SHIPPING LINES	10.8	7.81	1	200	612	2.70	2.56	-0.14	-
2.880	1.290	JOR. PAPER MFG. CO.	17.7	3.90	1	600	3075	1.43	1.37	-0.06	-
10.500	9.700	ALMAA	11.6	8.11	2	160	1666	9.85	9.78	-0.07	-
3.680	3.090	ARAB INTEL. INV. MDC.	12.5	6.35	2	1000	3150	3.15	3.15	-	-
1.320	1.000	JORDAN EXPR. INV.	32.3	0.00	1	250	260	1.10	1.04	-0.06	-
1.610	0.990	AMMAN EDUCATION	9	0.00	11	8550	8475	0.99	0.99	-	-
1.220	0.920	UNION LAND DEV.	8	0.00	21	3490	6239	1.12	1.06	-0.06	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 117.61 CHGS: -0.91 70 28908 45346											
1.130	1.160	AMMAN TRADING	72.0	0.00	4	12750	15938	1.95	1.25	-	-
4.120	3.390	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	20.3	2.82	12	3747	13271	3.56	3.56	-	-
6.030	4.750	ARAB POTASH CO.	16.3	3.70	7	3435	10544	5.40	5.40	-	-
11.150	8.900	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	13.5	5.98	22	15084	150856	9.98	10.04	+0.06	-
9.250	7.180	JOR. MORTGAGE FID.	9.7	3.31	3	3000	22725	7.60	7.55	-0.05	-
4.050	3.630	JOR. PAPER MFG. CO.	17.7	3.90	1	600	3075	3.60	3.45	-0.15	-
3.880	2.600	GENERAL KINING	7.3	10.53	5	3200	9120	3.00	2.85	-0.15	-
6.640	6.960	DAR ALAMAR DV. INV.	12.9	4.28	3	430	2154	4.96	4.71	-0.25	-
6.700	5.030	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.0	7.92	9	1694	8637	5.20	5.05	-0.15	-
1.740	0.830	LIVERPOOL & POLAND	9	0.00	94	213905	139633	0.61	0.61	-	-
1.890	1.240	ARAB PAPER COV. IND.	8.4	8.35	7	4250	8270	1.28	1.24	-0.04	-
1.330	1.350	INTERNATIONAL EXCH. IND.	9	7.69	3	300	390	1.25	1.30	+0.05	-
1.450	0.940	NATIONAL IND.	12.7	6.99	17	7700	6576	0.86	0.86	-	-
2.950	1.060	INTERNATIONAL PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	14	4900	6228	1.30	1.28	-0.02	-
1.340	0.830	JOR. ECONOMIC IND.	9	0.00	14	2900	2948	1.02	1.02	-	-
0.840	0.840	JOR. ECONOMIC IND.	9	0.00	14	2900	2948	1.02	1.02	-	-
2.580	1.580	ARAB PAPER COV. IND.	22.3	0.00	3	1300	1544	1.25	1.19	-0.06	-
3.450	2.430	ORIENT. MORTG. IND.	7.2	8.40	6	700	1677	2.48	2.38	-0.10	-
2.480	1.380	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	20.1	0.00	56	31200	33933	1.62	1.60	-0.02	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 116.13 CHGS: -0.33 276 302260 432421											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 147.04 CHGS: -0.27 447 467951 851971											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 12/05/1996											
0.940	0.700	JOR. TRADE PAC.	19.5	0.00	7	5250	3843	0.74	0.73	-0.01	-
1.000	0.780	UNION INV. BK.	35.8	0.00	11	8400	2520	0.81	0.80	-0.01	-
1.590	0.920	ARAB FID. INVEST.	9	0.00	25	1400	10727	0.78	0.74	-0.04	-
0.760	0.340	JOR. IND. MORTG. JEMCO	9	0.00	7	7750	4763	0.58	0.55	-0.03	-
1.240	0.630	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	12	6150	4490	0.71	0.73	+0.02	-
2.130	1.380	KARL. CHELSEA	9	0.00	16	8980	13663	1.49	1.44	-0.05	-
1.970	0.600	JOR. TRADING	9	0.00	8	1450	922	0.88	0.87	-0.01	-
1.100	0.800	KARL. BULL. IND. NAMICO	9	0.00	56	4725	35320	0.77	0.75	-0.02	-
2.250	0.800	JORDAN STEEL	9	0.00	13	20785	19912	0.97	0.95	-0.02	-
1.070	0.600	ARAB ELECT. IND.	9	0.00	1	500	300	0.63	0.60	-0.03	-
1.000	0.670	KARL. TRADING	9	0.00	5	1022	239	0.69	0.68	-0.01	-
1.850	1.100	UNION MORTGAGE FID.	9	0.00	2	500	400	1.22	1.21	-0.01	-
1.030	0.600	KARL. TRADING	9	0.00	9	8200	1448	0.70	0.68	-0.02	-
0.970	0.570	TRON. ENG.	20.4	0.00	11	2712	1626	0.62	0.60	-0.02	-
1.820	0.880	UNION. COMMERCIAL	9	0.00	34	18700	14093	0.91	0.89	-0.02	-
1.320	0.730	KARL. TRADING 75%	9	0.00	2	3000	1530	0.75	0.75	-	-
1.850	0.700	KARL. TRADING	9.6	0.00	19	17950	13263	0.74	0.73	-0.01	-
GRAND TOTAL 233 109881 128957											
★ New 12 months low											
★ Stock dividend during the past 12 months											
★ Listed during the past 12 months											
★ P/E ratio 100 or more											
★ Negative W/E											
★ Rating is zero or N/A for the most recent year											

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Knicks survive Bulls in OT; Utah Jazz crush Spurs

NEW YORK (R) — John Starks and Patrick Ewing combined for 12 of New York's 14 points in overtime as the Knicks survived another fourth-quarter collapse and 46 points by Michael Jordan to win a nail-biting 102-99 playoff victory over the Chicago Bulls Saturday.

Starks had seven of his career playoff-high 30 points and Ewing five of his 22 points in the extra session, which was forced when Jordan scored the last eight points of regulation to tie the game at 88-88.

The victory reduced the Bulls' lead in their best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinals to two games to one with game 4 to be played Sunday, again at Madison Square Garden.

The day's other NBA game had none of the drama of the New York epic, as Karl Malone scored 32 points and shut down David Robinson to lead the Utah Jazz, playing at home, to a 105-75 rout of the San Antonio Spurs and a 2-1 lead in their Western Conference semifinal series.

Ewing and Starks had taken a lot of criticism for the Knicks' failures down the stretch in the first two games in Chicago, but they answered the critics Sunday.

"The only people that feel we're pushovers were the media," said Ewing, who shot 8-of-15 from the field and 6-of-8 from the free throw line, grabbed a team-high 11 rebounds and blocked three shots.

"I know we're capable of beating this team. We let two games get away from us in Chicago, came back and won this one and we have another one tomorrow. We're focused on that and we'll come out hard."

Starks, who made just two shots in the first two games, hit a jumper, a three-pointer and two clutch free throws in OT. He finished 11-for-18 from the field, 5-for-8 from three-point range and 3-for-5 from the foul line, and added six assists, three steals and four rebounds.

"I thought John Starks had a tremendous game for us," Ewing said. "He got out of his slump he had in the first two games and came up big."

In the final 2½ minutes of OT, Ewing made a tough runner in the lane and a long jumper to give the Knicks a 98-97 lead with 37 seconds to go.

Charles Oakley then knocked the ball away from Jordan to Starks. Jordan fouled Starks, who made two foul shots with 27 seconds left to make the score 100-97.

NBA Playoffs

"Oakley has quick hands," said Jordan. "That's underestimated about his defense. He was able to knock it away clean. I've got to give him credit."

Scottie Pippen, who scored an erratic 24 for Chicago, cut the lead to 100-99 on a dunk, and Dennis Rodman fouled Oakley, who converted both free throws to restore the three-point lead.

With time running down, Jordan, double-teamed, passed to Pippen, whose three-point attempt missed. "I got a good look at it but we came up short," said Pippen.

"We spent a lot of energy," said Bulls coach Phil Jackson. "It's going to be real interesting tomorrow to see which team can step up, re-suscitate, and come back with a kind of game plan."

The Knicks twice led by as many as 13 points, in the first quarter and with just 5½ minutes left in the fourth.

New York committed 20 turnovers to Chicago's 13, and got 18 points and 10 rebounds from Mason, 13 points and 13 rebounds from Oakley and a spark off the bench from Charlie Ward, who had 12 points, three rebounds, two assists and a steal in 20 minutes.

"I'm very excited and happy that I got the opportunity," Ward said.

The Bulls played without forward Toni Kukoc, who also will miss game 4 with a back injury. Kukoc was Chicago's third-leading scorer during the regular season but was just 1-of-24 from the field in the first two games.

"I thought the Knicks played today as well as they can," said Jackson. "We floundered around, it seems like, for three quarters before we finally got ourselves going."

Auxerre clinch title

PARIS (R) — Modest Auxerre secured their first league title in style on Saturday by drawing 1-1 at Guingamp to become the first French team to win the Cup and League double since Marseille in 1989.

Just a week after beating Nimes 2-1 in the Cup final, the club from a small town in Burgundy resisted under pressure to build an unassailable four-point lead over Paris St. Germain, Monaco and Metz.

Auxerre made a perfect start, scoring after 11 minutes with a powerful shot from close range by Bernard Diomedé.

They then controlled the match until the both minute, when George Mihaili equalized for Guingamp.

Metz and Paris St. Germain, both still in contention going into the penultimate day of the season, needed to do better than Auxerre to keep their chances alive.

But they both saw their title hopes crushed, leaving Auxerre to celebrate next week before their home fans against Nantes in the league's final programme.

Outgoing champions Nantes showed glimpses of their form of last season to beat Metz 1-0 with Frederic Da Rocha scoring in the fourth minute to kill off the challenge of the eastern club.

Paris St. Germain, who have been busy celebrating since winning the European Cup Winners' Cup on Wednesday, knew the championship was practically out of their reach before travelling to Bordeaux, where they were held to a 2-2 draw.

Paris went in front just before halftime thanks to a brilliant goal by Youri Djorkaeff but Bordeaux, needing at least one point to be certain of avoiding relegation, fought back with a double by Anthony Bancarel, who scored in the 56th minute and again two minutes later.



Swiss 15-year-old tennis player Martina Hingis returns a backhand to Irina Spirelea of Romania during their semi-final at the Italian Open May 11 (Reuters photo)

Hingis stands between Martinez and fourth title

ROME (R) — Martina Hingis, the youngest ever Italian Open finalist, stands between Conchita Martinez and a record fourth consecutive title after both won rain-delayed semi-finals at the Foro Italico on Saturday.

The 15-year-old from Switzerland followed her shock win over world number one Steffi Graf on Friday with a 6-2, 7-5 triumph over Romanian Irina Spirelea, while number two seed Martinez took two hours 20 minutes to subdue Croatian teenager Iva Majoli 6-4, 6-7, (5-7) 6-2.

The final is a repeat of Hingis's only other major final on the women's tour, last year in Hamburg when Martinez, one of the world's top clay court exponents, lost just one game.

"Playing Martinez again in a final will be tough," said a jubilant Hingis, the youngest finalist in Rome since Tracy Austin won the title in 1979 at the age of 16.

"I don't know if I can win but I have a good chance," she added.

Hingis's run to the final on her first appearance in Rome confirmed her rapid progress since turning professional in September 1994 — in January, she was the youngest ever quarter-finalist at the Australian Open.

Showing a maturity beyond her tender age, she made Spirelea look like a novice.

Exploiting a damp, slippery court with perfectly-timed dropshots and accurate double-fisted backhands, the Swiss girl often left the Romanian rooted to the baseline.

"The court was slippery and it was difficult to move but I played a very good tactical match today," said Hingis, who will move from 20 in the world rankings to 15 if she wins the final — her highest ever position.

From 2-2 in the first set Hingis reeled off four straight games, rattling the Romanian to such an extent that she double-faulted on the first set point.

But though took a 2-0 lead in the second set, Spirelea, who knocked out number three seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain on Friday, fought back to 3-2.

With steady drizzly rain making serving increasingly difficult, the two players traded breaks until Hingis, cheered on by a partisan Rome crowd, finally held serve to lead 5-4.

The Romanian saved two match points, the second when Hingis netted. But at 6-5 a series of errors from the Romanian's increasingly erratic forehand took her to 30-40 on serve.

Another wayward Spirelea forehand and Hingis was racing to the sidelines to embrace her mother and coach Melanie.

Wilander in clay court finals

PINEHURST, North Carolina (AP) — Mats Wilander put himself in position to break a six-year title drought with a victory over fifth-seeded Javier Frana in the semifinals of the U.S. men's clay court championships.

Wilander's 6-3, 6-3 win on Saturday over Frana, last year's runner-up, put him into a tournament final for the first time since he won the Citibank Open in Itraprica, Brazil, in November 1990.

The 31-year-old Swede said he is no longer as concerned with winning as he was when he was the top-ranked player in the world during the mid-1980s.

"I'm not here to win tournaments, but if it happens, great," said Wilander, who won the U.S. clay court title in Indianapolis in 1987. "I'm here to play good matches like the ones I've played this week."

But his attitude might change when he plays charismatic Brazilian Fernando Meligeni in the championship match.

Armstrong set for Dupont title

KENNESAW, Georgia (R) — Marcel Wust of Germany claimed his second win and American Lance Armstrong's overall lead was extended to a 10th day Saturday in the longest and final road race stage of the Tour DuPont.

Wust, who also claimed the morning portion of the third stage on May 3, emerged from at least a dozen cyclists spread across the street and claimed the 148.5-mile (239.50-km) Clemson, South Carolina, to Kennesaw,

Georgia, road race in 6 hours, 14 minutes and 36 seconds.

Compatriot Sven Teutenberg, who won stage 9 and has battled Wust throughout the race, finished second, about six feet (two metres) behind. Federico Colonna of Italy was third, with both pursuers given the same time as the winner.

The 24-year-old Armstrong, the 1993 world road race champion, finished 38th in the main field, also in the same time as the winner.

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Afternoon Meeting: Wednesday 22 May 1996

The May afternoon meeting will be held at the Forte Grand Hotel on 22nd May. Thereafter meetings will be the first Wednesday morning of the month and second Wednesday afternoon of the month 10/12 p.m. and 4/6 p.m. respectively as usual.

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Supporters of Borussia Dortmund wave banners after Borussia Dortmund won the second consecutive German premier soccer league title in Munich. May 11 Dortmund tied 1960 by 2-2 while runners-up Bayern Munich lost 1-2 versus Schalke 04 (Reuters photo)

Even Beckenbauer could not deny Dortmund title glory

BONN (R) — Even Franz Beckenbauer, who has had a midas touch in the past, could not stop Borussia Dortmund from clinching the German League championship in the penultimate round of matches on Saturday.

Bayern Munich chairman Beckenbauer controversially fired coach Otto Rehhagel two weeks ago and put himself in charge of the team in a desperate late bid to bring back the title to Bavaria.

But Bayern's challenge crumbled in a 2-1 defeat at Schalke, allowing Dortmund to seal their fifth championship in 40 years with a 2-2 draw at 1860 Munich.

Dortmund have an unassailable four-point lead.

Beckenbauer, one of the most respected figures in the German game, won few friends by dismissing one of the Bundesliga's most prominent coaches who had guided the club to a UEFA Cup final with a brilliant semifinal defeat of Barcelona.

After his side were killed off by a last-minute winner at Schalke, Germany's former World Cup-winning captain and coach admitted he had made a mistake in sacking Rehhagel with just four games to go.

"I knew I couldn't produce magic in three weeks," Beckenbauer said. "It was all too late. I should have either let things go on as they were or acted earlier."

Dortmund's second title since the Bundesliga was set up in 1963 was due as much to the club's actions off the field as on it.

Both Bayern and Dortmund went through rough patches during the season. But while the activities at Bayern resembled a soap opera with Beckenbauer and players criticising the team in public and Rehhagel often under fire, the Ruhr club managed to deal with most of their problems in private.

As Dortmund began their celebrations in Munich's Olympic stadium — ironically the home of Bayern as well as 1860 — it was no surprise that key libero Matthias Sammer was quick to praise chairman Gerd Niebaum.

GOREN BRIDGE

PREPARE THE GROUND

there was no entry in the West hand to give partner a ruff, the defender shifted to the eight of diamonds. When declarer followed low from the table, East inserted the ten and declarer's queen won.

The queen of hearts lost to the ace, and East did as well as possible by cashing the ace of diamonds and continuing with the jack, forcing dummy to ruff.

Next came the key move — declarer ruffed a heart in hand. When a spade to the king uncovered the 4-0 break, South was in command. The time of spades was run, and another heart ruff brought declarer's trump length down to that of East.

The rest of the hand was a formality. A low club to the jack provided the entry for declarer to start running hearts. East discarded a diamond and declarer parted with a club, but East was forced to ruff the next heart, and it made no difference whether the defender ruffed high or low. Declarer simply over-ruffed and scored the last trick with the high trump.

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 9 4
♥ K J 10 8 2
♦ K 7
♣ A J 5

EAST

♠ Q 7 6 5
♥ A 6 3
♦ A J 10 2
♣ 10 4

The bidding:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ Pass 2NT Pass
3♣ Pass 4♠ Pass

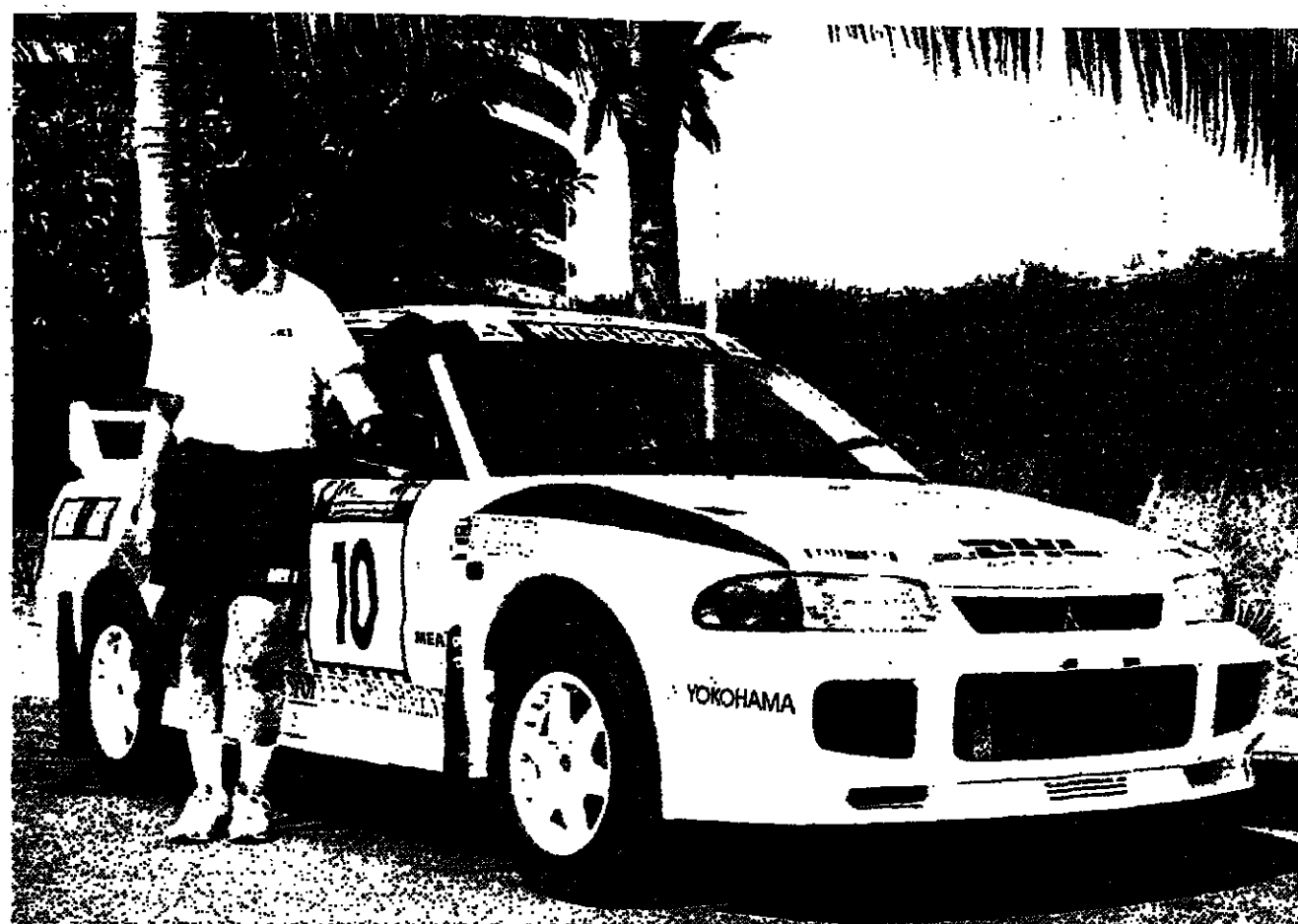
Opening lead: King of ♠

Having too many trumps can be as bad for declarer as having too few. Fortunately, the former is usually easy to cure.

North's two no trump responses asked South, Jon Greenspan of Manhattan, to describe his holding. Three spades showed a good hand for a weak two-bid and a good suit, so North wasted no time in bidding game.

The opening lead of the king of clubs was ducked in dummy as East followed with the ten. Since

TODAY AT	CINEMA PHILADELPHIA TEL: 634144	CINEMA PLAZA TEL: 699238	CINEMA CONCORD TEL: 677420	Ammoun Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155
	Sharom Stone & Robert Deniro..in Casino Shows: 12:15, 3:15, 6:00, 9:00	*The Heartbreak Kid Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 * Toy Story Shows: 2:00, 5:00	CONCORD "1" * RICHIE RICH Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 * Ace Ventura "2" Shows: 3:30, 5:10, 6:45 CONCORD "2" HEATE Shows: 8:30	Antonio Banderas & Salma Hayek in Desperado Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights Starts Monday, May 13 at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155 - 640155



Ron Cremen and his Mitsubishi Lancer EV3

Competitors arrive for Jordan Rally

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With the Jordan International Rally only a few days away, most foreign competitors have arrived and begun practising for the two-day event organised by Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) as the second round of the Middle East Rally Championship.

Thirty five competitors are so far in the list of entrants after two Jordanian participants — Amjad Farrah and George Shamoun — had to pull out since their cars hadn't arrived leaving 16 Jordanian participants in the rally.

The Forte Grand remains

the rally headquarters for the third consecutive year despite RACJ lacking a main sponsor for the event for the third time in its 14-year history.

Like last year, the route will cover all desert tracks that will take competitors from Amman and head south as far as the rose-red city of Petra. Participants will drive a total of 860 kilometres including 325 kilometres of 14 special stages.

The rally sets out from King Abdullah Gardens in Shmisan at noon Thursday which will see competitors driving four special stages and a total of 241 kilometres on the first day. Action starts at 7 a.m. on Friday as

the route will cover 617 kilometres and will include 10 stages.

The entry list is headed by Middle East champions Abdullah Bakhshab and Mohammed Bin Sulayyem. Both are expected to lead the competition with Bakhshab returning to retain his title while Bin Sulayyem will be looking for his sixth Jordan Rally title.

Jordanian competitors include Marouf Abu Samra who finished third overall last year, Bashir Bustami who came in fourth. 1995 Jordan Open champion Mohammad Al Daoud and others.

Top competitors are also arriving from Cyprus and

Qatar and other countries represented include the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Bahrain, France, Kuwait, Great Britain and Germany.

The only entry from Australia, Ron Cremen and John Peckham will be driving a Mitsubishi Lancer EV3 sponsored by BP Middle East.

Cremen and Dubai-based South African Stuart Fleming currently lead the Middle East Championship's Group N and are third overall after taking third place in round one of the championship in Abu Dhabi.

BP will also be covering their other Middle East rallies in Lebanon, Kuwait, Qatar and Dubai.

7th Arab Cup Winners' Cup opens today

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan soccer league champions Al Wihdat take on Olympic Al Mdyah of Algeria as the 7th Arab Cup Winners' Cup Championship opens here Monday with eight teams taking part.

The participating teams have been divided into two groups. Group 1 includes hosts Al Wihdat, Al Muharraq of Bahrain, Al Riyadh of Saudi Arabia, and Olympic Al Mdyah of Algeria. Group 2 includes Al Ittihad of Qatar, Jordan's Al Faisali, Al Mawrdah of Sudan, and Olympic Khreibkeh of Morocco.

An elite soccer competition never before hosted in Jordan, the Cup Winners' Cup groups a host of top teams despite the fact that all teams have never before won the title or even runner up position. Past champions, notably teams from Egypt and Tunisia, are missing the championship especially the championship record holders, Olympic Baidawi of Morocco, who won the title a record three consecutive times.

While Al Wihdat will be playing the event for the first time, Al Faisali's participation set a championship record with their fourth appearance in the event. (Al Ramtha were the first to represent Jordan in 1993).

Jordanian results in the past four Cup Winners' Cup participations were not encouraging as Al Faisali and Al Ramtha failed to score a single win and have two draws and 11 defeats in total.

Al Ittihad, who open their matches against Al Faisali Tuesday, are not easy opponents having a third place finish at the Asian Cup Winners' Cup, in their credit. The team includes three professional players including Moroccan Ahmad Balja who played in the last World Cup, Iraqi Radi Sheishel, and Brazilian player Edelson.

That is something Cantona never will be. On Saturday he became the first overseas player to captain a side in the 125-year history of the F.A. Cup and the first to lift the trophy.

His goal gave United a record ninth cup win and their eighth major success since 1990, and not even being spat at by a Liverpool fan as he went up to receive the trophy could mar his day.

That incident showed how he has changed, too. Eighteen months ago he attacked a fan for provoking him with racist abuse which earned the Frenchman an eight-month ban from soccer.



Team managers at Sunday's meeting of the technical committee



The championship's referees

Mr. Walid Kurdi, secretary-general of the Arab Soccer Federation (ASF), noted that Jordan was hosting its second biggest Arab soccer competition (after the 1988 Arab Cup) adding: "That was one of the most

successful Arab championships. We hope this one will be as good."

At the meeting, the technical committee decided that a press conference be held after each match that should be attended by the

head coach of each team. In the case two or more teams tie in overall points, goal difference will be the deciding factor thereafter the highest scoring team. If a tie continues the result of the match between the two teams will determine the qualifier.

The top two teams in each group will play the semifinal round starting May 20. The final match will be held May 22.

The ASF was still to decide on the eligibility of Wihdat captain Yousef Amouri joining his team. Amouri was handed a one-year suspension during the Arab Clubs Championship in Saudi Arabia last year.

Championship Record

Venue	Champion
Jeddah 1990	Mala'b (Tunisia)
Dubai 1990	Olympic (Morocco)
Jeddah 1993	Olympic (Morocco)
Doha 1994	Olympic (Morocco)
Cairo 1995	Ahli (Egypt)
Tunisia 1995	Al Afriqi (Tunisia)

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Interested candidates who meet the above requirements may forward their C.V.'s to the following address no later than May 23, 1996.

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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date: 6/5/1996
Loan No.: 89 66 400
IFB No.: 26/96/KIW/ANIS/GA

- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau in Deutsche Marks for the Water Supply of Greater Amman. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract(s) for which this IFB has been issued.
- The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from Bidders in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Federal Republic of Germany (eligible Bidders) for supply and installation of computer hardware and peripherals for the Amman Network Information System (ANIS).
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the Secretary General, Tenders Division, Water Authority, P.O. Box 2412 Amman, Jordan. Tel.: 680100, Thx.: 22439 WAJ JO. Fax.: 679143.
- A complete set of the tender documents may be purchased by any interested eligible Bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non refundable fee of JD 150.
- All bids must be submitted in separate envelopes, marked "technical" and "financial", be accompanied by a security in the amount of JD 5,000. (in words: five thousand Jordan Dinars) and must be delivered to the office not later than 12:00 hours, Jordan local time, on Saturday, 6/6/1996.
- Thursday, 23/5/1996, is the last day set for the purchasing of tender documents.

Eng. Koussai Qutailshat
Secretary General
Water Authority

Jordan Design & Trade Center cordially invites you to attend

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Muslim parties stay away from Mostar election

ZAGREB (R) — Bosnian Muslim parties have failed to register on time for the municipal elections in Mostar scheduled for May 31, throwing the poll into doubt, European Union (EU) officials said on Sunday.

"There are different points of view as to whether to hold the elections in Mostar or not," Hans Birchler, legal adviser to the EU, told Reuters by telephone.

In 1993 Mostar was at the centre of a savage communal war between Muslims and Croats. Croat nationalists wanted it to become the capital of their self-styled state.

The eastern, Muslim-held side of the town was wrecked by Bosnian Croat artillery and the Ottoman-era bridge over the River Neretva was destroyed in the bombardment which claimed some 1,500 lives.

The Mostar-based advisor said neither the ruling Bosnian Muslim SDA party nor any of the opposition Muslim parties had registered to participate in the elections by the deadline at midnight on Friday.

Three Croat parties, including the ruling HDZ and the Alliance of Women for Bosnia, named their candidates.

"From a strictly legal point of view, we could say — why not? Nobody is forced to run in the elections," Mr. Birchler said. "But there is a political view — if half of the city is not represented in the elections, what is their value?"

Mostar is still divided into two sectors, one ruled by Muslims, and the other by Croats. Diplomats had hoped that municipal elections would ultimately reunite the city under a central civic administration.

The vice-president of Bosnia's Muslim-Croat federation, Ejup Sanic, said in Sarajevo that because it was not possible for Muslims to return to their homes on the Croat side of Mostar, no election could be representative.

"If people are not allowed to go back there to live and to vote you know what the result would be. This is a very important issue of principle," he said. "It will help to define how elections are held in Bosnia."

"The feeling is there are some in the European Union who want to push the election in Mostar through mechanically, without enough care."

According to an agreement reached in Dayton last November, the European Union was given the responsibility of organising local elections in Mostar, ahead of the national general elections due in September.

Muslim parties have demanded that the Mostar refugees abroad be allowed to vote, either in remote polling stations, or by post. Muslims had a slight majority over Croats in the town before the war.

Mr. Birchler said earlier about a half of the estimated 60,000 voters in Mostar are refugees from other parts of Bosnia, who do not have the right to vote in these elections.

In other parts of the country, refugees will have the right to choose whether to vote in their place of origin or where they happen to be.

"Bosnians (Muslims) say it is a violation of human rights that refugees are excluded from voting," said Mr. Birchler.

"But we have no absent voting procedure for the municipal elections. There is also no mention of displaced persons (in the election law for Mostar)."

Mr. Birchler said the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which is supervising September elections, had suggested holding one election for all in the autumn.

"But the EU is still relying on the Dayton agreement (which stipulates elections in Mostar must be held in May)," Mr. Birchler said. EU foreign ministers would meet in Brussels on Monday to discuss the issue.



ELECTION CAMPAIGN: Supporters of a candidate of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for parliamentary elections next month chant at a campaign rally in southern Patiya town. Written on their bare chests are appeals for votes and praises for the candidate, Shahnewaz Montu (Reuters photo)

Iraq demands Turkey quit north immediately

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq on Sunday demanded the "immediate withdrawal" of Turkish forces hunting for Turkish Kurd separatists in northern Iraq.

The Foreign Ministry handed a memorandum to the Turkish charge d'affaires in Baghdad voicing "Iraq's strong protest" against Turkey's incursion into Iraqi territory on May 6, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

It denounced the operation as "a flagrant violation of the principles of international law and good neighbourly relations, and demanded 'the Turkish forces withdraw immediately and that the violations do not recur'."

Iraq "reserved the right to seek compensation for damages affecting Iraqi Kurdish citizens," according to the memo quoted by INA.

Ankara said the Turkish army had launched an offensive on May 6 against Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) separatists in northern Iraq, which has been under Iraqi

Kurdish control since 1991. But it said the attack had stopped last Thursday and that its forces had returned to Turkey.

The protest came as Iraq tried to boost relations with Turkey.

Iraq Oil Minister Amer Rashid travelled to Ankara in March and said the two countries had agreed to restart the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline if the United Nations and Baghdad struck an oil-for-food deal.

Some 1,200 soldiers backed by aircraft crossed into northern Iraq a week ago in pursuit of PKK guerrillas and to destroy the Turkish Kurdish group's bases in the mountainous border region.

Twenty-eight PKK rebels and one Turkish soldier died in clashes on Tuesday, according to Turkish military officials.

PKK rebels fighting for an independent Kurdish homeland in southeast Turkey since 1984 have rear bases in northern Iraq, which has been under the control of Iraqi Kurds since 1991 in defiance of Baghdad.

YSP denies involvement in kidnap

SANAA (AFP) — The Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) on Sunday denied it was involved in the kidnapping of the Aden governor's son, who has been held for the past three days by tribesmen close to the party.

The YSP "denounces this kidnapping and calls on the authorities to take all measures to have this hostage released and the kidnappers punished," Yahya Al Shami, member of the YSP politburo, said.

Maaz Taha Ahmad Ghanem, 20, was abducted on Thursday in the capital Sanaa by members of the powerful Khawlane tribe who belong to the family of Ahmad Obad Sherif, a member of the YSP central committee who is living in Saudi Arabia.

The father of the hostage, Taha Ahmad Ghanem, is a member of the General People's Congress of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. losing its 'honest' image

NICOSIA (AFP) — The United States is quickly losing its role as an "honest broker" in the eyes of the Arab World for its steadfast support of Israel despite incidents such as the Cana massacre, which analysts warn could harm the Middle East peace process.

"There is already a perception that the Americans do not have the same sympathy for the Arabs that they have for the Israelis," said Yahya Sadowski, a senior fellow in Arab studies at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

"Recent events have not helped that impression," he added.

Even moderate Arab governments such as Egypt have expressed concern about Washington's backing of Israel's 17-day onslaught last month against Hizbollah guerrillas in Lebanon and its failure to condemn the shelling of a U.N. camp in Cana that killed 102 refugees.

"There are certain circumstances we are not satisfied with," Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said this week of the U.S. position towards Israel.

"We are making contacts to make things clear and will continue to do so," he said, suggesting that other sponsors be brought into the Middle East peace process.

"We cannot ignore the European countries' efforts, which could make the balance for all sides," Mr. Mubarak said.

Syria and usually moderate Arabic newspapers were more direct in their criticism, especially after the United States rejected a U.N. report charging Israel may have intentionally shelled the Cana camp in South Lebanon.

Qatar's English-language newspaper Gulf Times accused Washington of totally supporting Israel and trying to free it from blame.

"Go to hell, Clinton" was title of an editorial in the Egyptian government daily Al Akhbar, which slammed the United States for its "alignment with Israel to the degree of joining it in its

aggression against Lebanon." "The U.S. administration has abandoned all values and moral principles which it is supposed to defend," wrote editor-in-chief Galal Dweidar on the front page.

Official Syrian radio criticised the United States for "having supported Israel in its aggression against Lebanon instead of focusing its efforts on advancing the peace process" in the Middle East.

John Moberly, a former British ambassador to Jordan and Iraq and now a consultant at the Royal Institute of Foreign Affairs in London, said Washington's Middle East policy is currently being driven by Israel's general elections on May 29.

"So much of the future course of the peace process is resting on the outcome of Israeli elections," Mr. Moberly said. "Those who want the peace process to move forward, including the Palestinians, realise that a Likud victory would be a stumbling block."

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, whose government has been the strongest proponent of peace with Israel's Arab neighbours, signing accords with the Palestinians and backing talks with Syria, faces a tight race against the right-wing Likud bloc.

"There is no doubt that the United States' resounding silence about Israel's incursion into Lebanon could only happen in the run-up to an Israeli election," Mr. Sadowski said.

Mr. Sadowski said that the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton has a clear policy goal of keeping Israel's Labour Party in power to keep the Middle East peace process on track, holding back criticism and doing everything possible to bolster Mr. Peres domestically.

But Mr. Sadowski warns the U.S. could lose its role as the broker of the Middle East peace process if it continues to lean so strongly in Israel's favour.

"If the United States continues to lean so strongly in Israel's favour, it will lose its role as the broker of the Middle East peace process," he said.

COLUMN 8

U.S. Civil-War era submarine found in ocean

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The first submarine to destroy a vessel during the U.S. Civil War has been found near the entrance of the harbour of Charleston, South Carolina and was identified this week, the U.S. Navy said.

The Hunley of the Confederate Navy was sunk shortly after it had destroyed the Union vessel in 1864. A team organised by the navy and the National Park Service found the small craft buried in the sand at a depth of six metres, said Bill Dudley, director of the Institute of Naval History.

During the civil war, the Confederates used several such submarines, operated by a man turning a propeller and lit by candles. The submarine was found near the spot where it is believed to have sunk the Housatonic, one of the vessels manning the blockade of the south.

Brazilian mum to marry gay son's male lover

BRASILIA (R) — The mother of a Brazilian homosexual has agreed to marry his British male lover so that the couple may stay together.

Brazilian newspapers reported Saturday. The Estado de Sao Paulo newspaper said Maria Conceicao Muller Dos Reis, aged 65, had agreed to tie the knot with her son's gay friend, 38-year-old David Ian Harrod, so that he could stay on in Brazil.

"For your happiness I will marry David," she told her son, 32-year-old Tony Reis, according to Estado.



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All invitees are kindly requested to appear at 3:30 p.m.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

I. Philadelphia Hotel Wednesday 15th May

Time	Hall A	Hall B	Hall C
Morning	General Medicine	Urology	Gen. & Ped. Surgery
After Noon	General Medicine	Neurosurgery	General Surgery
	Urology	Neurology	Ophthalmology
	Urology	Psychiatry/Chest Rehabilitation	

Thursday 16th May

Time	Hall A	Hall B	Hall C
Morning	General Surgery	Oncology	Paediatrics
After Noon	Nephrology	Orthopedic Surgery	Paediatrics
	Nephrology	Plastic Surgery	Orthopedics
	E.N.T.	Obst. & Gyn.	Orthopedics

Friday 17th May

Time	Hall A	Hall B	Hall C
Morning	Laboratory	Obst. & Gyn.	Radiology
After Noon	Laboratory	Anesthesia	Radiology
	Nursing	Pharmacy	Anesthesia
	Dentistry	Cardio-Vascular	Gastroenterology

II. King Hussein Medical Center Thursday 16th May

Time	Parah Auditorium
1:00-4:00 p.m.	Cardiology
4:00-5:30 p.m.	Jordan-Mayo Satellite Teleconference (Atrial Fibrillation)
5:30-6:15 p.m.	Cardiology

SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOPS

1	Urology (Endoscopic Urology)
	J. Rasswiler MD. Germany
2	Plastic Surgery (Endoscopy)
	R. Groner M.D Germany
3	Laboratory (Diagnostic and Importance of Features and patterns of Lymph Node Disease)
	B. Nathwan MD. U.S.A
4	E.N.T (Endoscopic Diagnosis and Surgery of Sinuses)
	H. Stammberger MD. Austria
5	Neurosurgery (Skull Base Surgery)
	M.G. Yasargil MD. & O.Al-Mefty MD. U.S.A.

MEMORIAL LECTURE Philadelphia Hotel Hall A

Time : 8:30 P.M

Date : Tuesday 14th MAY 1996

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